

NEWS ROUNDUP

RUC arrest 5 in building inquiry

The Royal Ulster Constabulary yesterday announced a breakthrough in the campaign against building site rackets that have netted terrorist groups in Northern Ireland millions of pounds in recent years.

The arrests of five men — three in Cookstown, Co Tyrone, and two in Holloway, north London — came after a two-year operation by the RUC and Inland Revenue.

The RUC said all the men were being questioned about terrorist-related offences associated with republican racketeering.

The arrests were part of a much wider investigation which is continuing on building sites in London, Merseyside, Birmingham and Glasgow, as well as in Northern Ireland.

Tax fraud and protection rackets operated by both republican and "loyalist" groups are said to put up the price of house-building in Northern Ireland by as much as 20 per cent.

The Housing Executive, the province's sole housing authority, was accused in a court case last year of turning a blind eye to the racketeering which has cost UK taxpayers millions of pounds over the past decade.

Three members of the same family were being questioned yesterday after security forces found a Soviet made RPG7 rocket launcher in a garden shed on the republican Creggan estate in Londonderry.

Life for hospital killer

A man who shot dead his former girl friend in a hospital ward, while her policeman guard telephoned to warn a senior officer that she might be in danger, was jailed for life at Aylesbury Crown Court, Buckinghamshire, yesterday. David Jenkins, aged 25, of Grace Way, Stevenage, who was besotted with Carolyn Myland, also from Stevenage, killed her with a single blast from a shotgun. He fired after pulling back the curtain of the cubicle where Miss Myland, aged 24, was awaiting treatment for a knife wound he had inflicted.

'Gay' clause opposed

Members of the actors' union, Equity, yesterday voted to increase opposition to the clause in the Local Government Finance Bill which bans local authorities from promoting homosexuality. Members rejected a strike call by Miss Vanessa Redgrave but instructed the union council to monitor the effects of the clause and to produce guidelines to prevent members from self-censoring their work.

Cardiologist retires

A heart specialist who objects to the ethics of transplants is retiring early from Papworth Hospital, near Cambridge. Dr David Wainwright Evans, aged 60, a consultant cardiologist, has opposed heart transplants since they began at the hospital in 1979. Dr Evans, who was at the centre of a dispute over brain death which caused transplant numbers to dwindle, claimed again yesterday that donors were not yet dead when their hearts were removed.

Potato beetle alert

An alert was issued last night after Colorado beetles were found in a consignment of parsley imported from Italy. Traders and the public were urged to report any sightings immediately as government officials tried to trace the parsley. Five beetles, which are half an inch long with yellow and black stripes were found in Glasgow.

Very bad for business

When Mr Andrew Dunley, sales director of Simba Security Systems, arrived for the opening day of the International Fire Protection and Security Exhibition at Olympia, he found that thieves had stolen his firm's display of remote controlled car alarms.

Confusion greets social security reforms

Claimants besiege offices

By Staff Reporters

The age of new social security payments dawned yesterday amid intense confusion among claimants and sporadic protests from groups of Civil Servants concerned that the new rates could lead to increased violence against them.

Assistants have been on training courses studying the new system since last autumn, but the complexity of the regulations meant that few claimants could be told their new payments. The majority will have to wait for a detailed calculation.

The regulations also prompted a demonstration from pensioners outside Downing Street where their spokesman, Mr Jack Jones, the former trade union leader, accused the Government of "robbing" them through the changes.

Officials at the Bloomsbury social security office, central London, had to close their doors at noon because of the number of claimants, many of whom were eager to establish their new entitlement, after it had been closed for four weeks because of industrial action.

Claimants arriving at the office in Ealing, Birmingham, also found the doors locked by staff who were protesting about job cuts. Members of the Civil and Public Services Association said that 26 jobs were to be lost because of the introduction of the new system.

At the offices in Peckham, south London, the sign on the door summed up the mood of the staff: "Peckham DHSS (Department of Health and Social Security) officers are not responsible for the allocation of the new social fund. Please do not take it out on them." The plea survived for half an hour. By 10am it had been ripped down by a frustrated claimant.

Indeed, emotions ranged from confusion to fury yesterday as claimants tried to come to terms with the new system.

Lisa Brown, aged 19, an unemployed single mother, had arrived at 10.30am expecting to be able to claim for a cot for her baby girl, who was born last week one month prematurely.

Under the old system she could have expected a special payment for a vital piece of equipment that she could not afford. After waiting four hours, she was told she could

now be considered only for a loan. "How can I pay back the money for a cot when I cannot even pay my heating bill? I have to keep the heating on for my baby the whole time", she said.

One mother of two was in tears after discovering the new rules on emergency payments. Before yesterday she could have expected an emergency refund after losing her laundry benefit cheque for £46. Under the new rules, officers are able to claim emergency payments only if the money has been lost through the fault of the DHSS. "I don't know how I'm going to manage", Mrs Cindy O'Reilly, aged 29, said. "I face a huge laundry bill because my daughter Pamela wets her bed two or three times a night."

At Bloomsbury, several young mothers, their babies in push-chairs, were turned away after arriving to pick up new allowance order books. Miss Albina Flynn, aged 24, who is six months pregnant, was hoping to be given a giro cheque for £34.50 but the bolted doors meant she was forced to return home.

The pressure on the DHSS offices also meant that Miss Anita Garcia, from north London, was unable to be



Demonstrators protesting at the new social security system yesterday in Bloomsbury, central London.

given a cheque for the £319 she is owed in child benefit arrears. "I think I will be better off under the new system, but I am obviously anxious to know officially. All I know so far is from the newspapers", she said.

At offices in Birmingham, Civil Servants put up placards claiming that the "richest gain most" and "62 per cent of claimants lose".

Mrs Grace Taylor, aged 54, of Castle Vale, who arrived to claim invalidity benefit for her sick husband, Leslie, aged 58, said: "I do not know whether the changes will affect us because I cannot get in to find out, but I am worried about the future."

"I suppose I can sympathize with the staff because I have been here before and it has been terrible. It was packed out and people were barging about."

In Scotland, as with most other parts of the country, staff were dealing with tens of thousands of single payment claims lodged before the deadline last Friday.

Benefit offices such as the one at Glasgow Craigton in the city's Paisley Road West deal with up to 1,000 claim-

ants each week, but yesterday most claimants were still waiting to see how the new rules would affect them.

Figures show that almost a third of Scots now live below or on the poverty line. One of them, Mr John Bulloch, was waiting at the Amiesland office, which serves the vast Drumchapel housing estate on the edge of Glasgow. "I got £37 last week. I am just waiting to see what I get this week. I don't really understand the changes, it just matters what I get in the end", he said.

Craigton normally deals with between 800 and 1,000 supplementary benefit claims and about 200 requests for single payments a week. Mr Ian Brisbane, the office's manager, said that over the past six weeks single payment requests had been running at almost 200 a day.

"The first real reaction from people will be when we get requests for 'crisis' loans coming through. Formerly, these crisis payments were in the form of grants for anything from children's clothing to household furniture, but will now be repayable loans."

The confusion intensified as the Church of Scotland condemned the widening of the gulf between the rich and the poor.

Advice offices forced to shut

By Jill Sherman Social Services Correspondent

Citizens Advice Bureaux were forced to close their doors yesterday as streams of benefit claimants sought help to get extra money.

The National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux said that many of their officers arrived in the morning to find queues outside their doors. "Within minutes offices were crammed shoulder to shoulder with claimants who were unable to believe that they no longer qualified for this or that benefit," the association said. "In many cases officers reached saturation point and had to close their doors."

The most common inquiry concerned housing benefit. "People could not believe that they had to pay 20 per cent of their rates without getting it back some other way," the association's spokesman said. "Many were both shocked and worried and felt they are being left high and dry."

Charities were also inundated with calls from claimants no longer able to get single payments for beds and cookers. The Family Welfare Association said it had had to close its grants section for all clients except children, the sick and pensioners, because it had already allocated most of its funds. "We will now only look at applications from these special groups but we cannot guarantee that we will pay up," the association said.

The association gave one example where a family of six children asked for financial assistance after a fire in their house which was not insured for contents. After being refused help by the DHSS, the family applied for a grant from the FWA to cover beds and bedding, kitchen equipment and clothing. The FWA estimated that they needed at least £1,200 but could give them only £60.

The new benefit rates will leave many of the poor undernourished, according to a survey by a district dietician in Bradford, Mrs Fran Hanes, which shows that a healthy diet for a teenager would take up 80 per cent of the allowance a family would get for their child under the new income support benefit.

Speelman holds on to lead

Jonathan Speelman, Britain's chess world championship quarter-finalist, has maintained his grip on the lead in the £100,000 World Cup Tournament being played in Brussels.

Speelman kept first place in spite of not playing in the eighth round on Sunday, after his opponent, the Soviet grand master, Rafael Vaganian, withdrew because of a family bereavement.

Scores after the eighth round leave Speelman on five points from seven games, ahead of Salov and Karpov of the Soviet Union with five points from eight games. Karpov beat Sokolov on Sunday, while Salov drew his game with J Timman.

Other results: L Winants lost to V Korchnoi; G Sax drew with L Ljubojevic; J Nunn drew with U Andersson; J Nogueiras lost to A Beliavsky; L Fortisch drew with M Tal; and the game between Y Seirawan and P Nikolic was adjourned with the latter holding some advantage.

Byline The Three systems: Austria Sch 20; Belgium 8 Frs 80; Canada 52;2; Carriera 20;2; Cyprus 40;2; Denmark 12;2;0;2; Finland 10;2; France 8;2;0;2; Germany 20;2; Gibraltar 7;0; Greece 20;2; Holland 12;2;0;2; Ireland 10;2; Italy 1;2;0;2; Luxembourg 1;2;0;2; Macedonia 12;2;0;2; Mexico 12;2;0;2; Norway 12;2;0;2; Pakistan 12;2;0;2; Portugal 12;2;0;2; Spain 12;2;0;2; Sweden 12;2;0;2; Tunisia 12;2;0;2; USA 12;2;0;2; USSR 12;2;0;2; Yugoslavia 12;2;0;2.

Traffic management Lost drivers 'waste £200m'

By Paul Vallely

Lost motorists waste about £200 million a year driving on roads which they need never use in the first place, according to a confidential report on road signs which is being prepared for the Department of Transport.

While many do not know where they are going, their main problem is the most of them do not know where they are, the report said.

Details of the report was disclosed yesterday as authorities struggle to speed up the ever-decreasing pace of traffic in congested cities.

The Department of Transport is sponsoring a £160,000 pilot project, which will begin this summer, to re-signpost the town of Guildford, Surrey, in a style which includes new junction name signs.

It is also considering erecting junction warning signs along the central reservation of motorways to supplement the big signs which are often partially obscured by undergrowth. According to a recent survey by the Automobile Association, about 288 of 846 motorway signs had their junction numbers obscured.

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year. Their average speed during peak periods has declined from nearly 13 mph in 1970 to less than 12 mph.

Movement for London, the roads pressure group, which predicts a 50 per cent rise in the number of people travelling to work by car in the capital by 2001, said the situation can only get worse.

Surveys of the area bounded by the M25 showed that signposts at many of the 10,000 crucial junctions were "inadequate and incomplete". Among them, "many errors have been found, omissions and inconsistencies abound, and information overload is commonplace".

The two most troublesome factors about road signs, according to an interim version of the report commissioned from the MVA Consultancy, was that they did not identify a driver's present location and that they were prone to misleading inconsistencies.

The report, to be published next August, said: "Motorists' first requirement from signs is... to recognize the point on the map which has been reached. They must know where they are before they can be told where to go."

It said that road signs were misleading in a number of ways. They omitted destinations which had previously been prominently displayed. They gave undue weight to destinations which were not important. They failed also to keep up with changes in the road network.

The report calls for the elimination of inconsistencies, the replacement of all pre-1963 signs and the removal of trees, hedges, bus stops and shop canopies which prevent easy visual assimilation of sign information.

It recommends the addition of town names to legends which at present read "Town Centre", and suggests that a numbering system for road junctions be introduced on a trial basis.

The report also offers a more radical approach, which includes the erection of a new sign system for primary routes throughout London.

This would introduce compass points, pare down the amount of information on signs and denote certain destinations whose importance originally derives from their existence as intermediary destinations in the days of horse coaches.

Among the names which would disappear would be Richmond, Croydon, Dagenham, Kew Bridge, Kingston, Westminster, Woolwich Ferry and the West End.

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Tonight. The love story of the century.



THE WOMAN HE LOVED
Anthony Andrews stars as Edward, Prince of Wales and Jane Seymour as American divorcee Wallis Simpson in one of the century's greatest love stories.
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Controllers see air miss jets 'merge'

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Air traffic controllers at West Drayton watched helplessly yesterday as the radar "blips" from two jets carrying a total of more than 320 people merged head on into one as they passed over Wales.

A full investigation is being held into the incident which could have brought the aircraft to within half a mile of each other.

An American Airlines DC 10 on its way from Dallas to Gatwick with 228 passengers and eight crew was given permission to head for a beacon at Strumble Head, Dyfed, at a height of 31,000ft.

But at the same time an Aer Lingus Boeing 737 with 80 passengers was heading in the same spot at the same height in the opposite direction before turning right towards Dublin.

Jaguar workers to strike as talks fail

By Craig Seton

Workers at Jaguar will strike from Monday unless the car company withdraws its threat to impose productivity changes, a union official said last night.

Mr Christopher Liddell, the Transport and General Workers' Union officer with responsibility for the motor industry in the Coventry area, said the unions involved were willing to hold further talks to explore ways out of the dispute.

However, they remained bewildered that Jaguar had chosen such an "entirely inopportune moment" to announce that it would impose its productivity plans.

The decision of the workforce in the strike ballot three weeks ago was to resist by industrial action any measures the company took to impose new productivity arrangements without agreement, Mr Liddell said.

Yesterday, management told shop stewards representing the 4,000 assembly line workers at the Browns Lane, Coventry, plant it would go ahead from next Monday with plans to increase production by 92 cars a week.

After yesterday's talks, which lasted three hours, Jaguar said: "We have explained our position yet again to union representatives, but they have maintained their objections to our proposals. As a result, we intend to start phasing in increases in productivity from April 18."

The manual workers stood to gain an extra £12.50 a week in bonuses from the production schedules.

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Advice offices forced to shut

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Citizens Advice Bureaux were forced to close their doors yesterday as streams of local claimants sought help for extra money.

The National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux said that many of their offices were closed because they were unable to pay their rent.

The most common reason for the closure was the inability to pay rent. Many cases of rent arrears have been reported in the last few months.

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Dockland empire 'was created from Brink's Mat gold'

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Gold from the £26 million Brink's Mat robbery was turned into cash, laundered and then invested to create a property portfolio in London's docklands worth £18 million, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

The portfolio held with the aid of a firm called Selective Estates, was built up from £7.5 million drawn from the record robbery and paid into bank accounts in Britain and abroad.

The money was moved offshore and then brought back to Britain by a group including a London solicitor and a watchdog acting in behalf of the robbers.

Opening the prosecution case, Mr Nicholas Purnell, QC, told the court the nine defendants were accused either of taking part in the robbery in 1983 or of moving or using money gained from it.

Mr Purnell told the court that there had already been one Brink's Mat trial which has led to the conviction of Michael McAvoy, Brian Robinson and another man for the theft of the gold.

Yesterday, the nine defendants all pleaded not guilty. They are Michael Relton, aged 49, a solicitor from

Haslemere, Surrey; Brian Perry, aged 48, a company director from Biggin Hill, Kent; John Elcombe, aged 39, an antique dealer from Maidstone, Kent, and his wife Anne, aged 38; Stephen Donovan, aged 34, a property dealer from Stepney, east London; Kathleen McAvoy, aged 40, from Bromley, Kent; Jacqueline McAvoy, aged 33, a housewife, from Bickley, Kent; Michael Osborn, aged 44, a car dealer from Maidstone, Kent, and Joseph Medayil, aged 55, an accountant, from New Barnet, north London.

Mr Relton, Mr Perry, the Elcombes, Mr Donovan, Mrs Kathleen McAvoy and Mr Medayil have pleaded not guilty to conspiring with Mr Gordon Parry and Mr Michael McAvoy to handle a quantity of gold stolen from Brink's Mat by Mr McAvoy and others.

Mr Relton, Mr Perry, Mrs Jacqueline McAvoy, Mr Osborn and Mr Medayil have pleaded not guilty to conspiracy to handle stolen goods with Mr McAvoy.

Mr Relton, Mr Donovan and Mrs Kathleen McAvoy have pleaded not guilty to a similar charge involving a farm at Bickley.

At the start of a lengthy trial Judge Richard Lowry, QC, told the jury he had ordered police surveillance for them during the case.

Mr Purnell said the prosecution claimed there was a tenth person intimately involved. He was Gordon Parry who was used as a figurehead. He was said to be involved in the property world and companies were formed around him. He had yet to be arrested.

The court was told that the Elcombes smuggled money abroad as couriers. The couple's frequent journeys as antique dealers was an excellent cover for taking money to Switzerland and later Liechtenstein.

Mrs Kathleen McAvoy was the robber's second wife. Mrs Jacqueline McAvoy was his first wife who was given a substantial home in Kent knowing the source of the money for the home.

Mr Osborn, a long standing associate of McAvoy, helped her by acting as a conduit for assets. Mr Medayil, who had done business with Relton and Parry, helped Mrs Jacqueline McAvoy to get a mortgage to cover the real source of the money for home.

Mr Purnell told the court that yet another of the shields used to hide the gold and money from sight was created by the robbers themselves. After the conviction of Robinson and McAvoy the two men tried to strike a deal offering back proceeds from the Brink's Mat robbery in return for a cut in the sentences or early parole.

Overall Mr Purnell said a figure of £11 million or £12 million in gold or cash from the Brink's Mat robbery had been identified.

He said it may be that Mr Perry, Mr Parry and Mr Relton had a plan that in due course money would be given back to the authorities but only at a time that suited them.

The case continues today.

Petrol tanker crash closes town



A sea of foam surrounds the overturned petrol tanker in Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, yesterday (Photograph: Mark Baker).

A town centre was evacuated yesterday when a 38-ton petrol tanker overturned, crushing a car, trapping its driver, and flooding the streets with fuel. Fumes from the spillage were blamed for an explosion a quarter of a mile away.

A five-mile stretch of the Thames near the accident, at Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, was polluted. Boats were banned between Shepperton and Sunbury, and two water intakes were closed to stop reservoirs becoming contaminated. Police closed the town to traffic.

Emergency services, unable to use cutting equipment because of the fire risk, took 40 minutes to free Mrs Grace Howard, of Staines, Middlesex, from her flattened Ford Escort. Firemen spread a

blanket of foam waist-high down 100 yards of the street. Police thured with loudhailers warning people to switch off all electrical appliances and not to light any naked flames. Fifteen fire appliances and a fleet of ambulances were called out.

Fumes from the spill fuel, which could be smelt nearly a mile away, were blamed for an explosion which blew out doors and damaged windows at the Old Manor House Inn, a quarter of a mile from the scene. It was thought fumes had leaked into the cellar through the drains and were ignited by a pilot light on a gas boiler.

The petrol tanker, which was pulling into a filling station to make a delivery when it mounted a pavement and

overturned, was carrying a full load of 26,000 litres of petrol and 7,000 litres of diesel. Most of the fuel was spilt, some leaking into the Thames in spite of the efforts of 70 firemen to contain it.

The Thames Water Authority had emergency teams with large booms sweeping the fuel from the surface of the river. It assured householders that water supplies would not be affected.

Clearing up continued for most of the day. Mrs Howard, aged 55, was taken to St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey, Surrey, with minor neck injuries. She was later allowed home. The driver of the tanker, Mr Michael Wright, aged 45, of Cheam, south-east London, was uninjured.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator A trip to Jordan for artist

A retired inspector of schools is one of two winners who share the Portfolio prize of £4,000.

Mr Bruce Hurn, aged 61, of Labbeck Road, Chislehurst, south-east London, is an artist. He said: "I have recently returned from a visit to Israel and I have been using drawings I did there for paintings."

"On the strength of that I am planning to study the landscape and architecture of Jordan." Part of the £2,000 prize will go towards the trip.

Mr Hurn, who is married with four children, said he had been playing the competition for more than a year and would use some of the money for family presents.

The other winner is Mrs. Queenie Humphries, of Cameron Road, Bromley, south-east London.

Attack charge

Barry Pepper, aged 48 and his son, Lee, aged 20, appeared in before Canterbury magistrates yesterday after the death of a man aged 56 who died two days after being attacked while walking his dog. The men, from Herne Bay, were charged with causing grievous bodily harm.

Bombs hoard

A retired bomb disposal expert hid more than 600lb of high explosives in his home on a caravan site at Golden Cross, near Hailsham, East Sussex. His son found the arsenal on Saturday after the man died, police said yesterday.

Computer debut to aid jury

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

In a pioneering experiment, the jury in the Brink's Mat case is having the complexities of the alleged laundering of the robbery proceeds explained by computer.

The jury will watch what the prosecution claims was the flow of the money from the gold taken in the robbery using computer graphics shown on 21 colour monitors around the courtroom. A microcomputer has been installed in the courtroom to control the displays.

The Crown Prosecution Service sees the Brink's Mat case as the start of what is likely to be the regular use of computer technology to help juries to understand the nature of some cases, especially those involving fraud.

In some trials the bulk of the evidence may be presented in the form of full-colour, computer-generated graphics, which are far easier to comprehend than the mass of paperwork normally offered to juries.

Mr Barry Greene, of Wang (UK), the company which provided the computer for the trial, said greater use of computers could cut the

preparation time needed by counsel. "Cases can now come to court closer to the time of the alleged offences, which must be for the good of all concerned", he said.

The prosecution service and the Metropolitan Police are also investigating other ways of improving the presentation of evidence in juries.

In a trial under way at the Central Criminal Court involving an alleged mortgage fraud, the jury is being shown evidence in the form of "digitized" images, which makes the fine detail of the exhibits presented clear.

The hearing continues.

Fire test possible at King's Cross

By a Staff Reporter

The King's Cross Underground escalator fire may be repeated to try to establish what caused the fire which killed 31 people last November to spread so rapidly.

This emerged yesterday at the start of the tenth week of hearings by the official inquiry into the disaster after conflicting expert evidence on the role played by a special paint, Prodorite, in the development of the fire.

Prodorite had been applied to the ceiling of the Piccadilly line escalator shaft, where the fire broke out, and Mr Lionel Read, QC, for London Underground, told the inquiry that without a further fire test it was unlikely to be able to decide whether Prodorite helped to cause the flashover.

London Underground said later that work was already in progress to replace the existing Piccadilly Line escalators in the burnt shaft, so that a decision about staging a new fire could not be long delayed. But the decision would have to be carefully weighed and a fire carefully controlled.

Potato top choice in vegetables

The potato was named yesterday as Britain's favourite food. The average person ate 244lb of potatoes each year, against a total of 84lb for all other vegetables.

Peas, 14lb, and carrots, 13lb, were the next most popular vegetable, while asparagus tipped the scales at just 2oz, costing an annual average of 12p.

The figures in *Produce 1988*, produced by the Food From Britain organization, showed beef and veal headed the meat table, with 42lb of the 135lb total. Poultry managed just under 28lb.

The average person drank 216 pints of milk a year and 1.5 pints of cream, and ate 157 eggs, almost 18lb of bacon and ham, 13lb of tomatoes and 65 loaves of bread. Fruit totalled 47lb.

More than 200 million cups of tea are consumed every day, compared with 100 million cups of coffee, according to the annual Nestle-Mintel report, published yesterday.

Concern over baby deaths

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

A government inquiry has been urged into Britain's "patchy and underfunded" maternity services after a report showed wide differences in the provision of services and in infant mortality rates.

The survey shows that between 1981 and 1986 the number of live and still births rose from 602,102 to 626,946, while the number of maternity beds fell from 18,176 to 16,166. At the same time the number of special care baby unit cots dropped from 3,940 to 3,651.

The report also showed that perinatal and infant deaths were much higher in the North and, particularly the West Midlands than in the South, with the bulk of deaths occurring in the lower social classes.

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ste £200m

workers to as talks fail

£4,000 rises to ease crown prosecution recruitment crisis

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Large pay increases have been offered by the Treasury to the crown prosecution service and the rest of the government legal service to tackle the acute shortage of lawyers and improve recruitment.

The offer, to be announced this week, ranges from 7 to 12.6 per cent. It will mean a £2,000 rise in starting salaries for crown prosecutors, coupled with the prospect of rising to a new top salary some £4,000 above present rates.

The offer comes after representations to the Treasury by Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, the Attorney General, and Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Solicitor General, both of whom have been extremely concerned by the recruitment crisis in the government legal service.

There have also been intense negotiations between Treasury officials and the crown prosecutors' union, the First Division Association, which has consistently pressed for a substantial pay rise if recruits are to be attracted and existing lawyers retained.

The crown prosecution service is still 450 lawyers below strength and there are shortages in almost every government legal department. Last year nearly 60 of the 100 or so posts remained unfilled.

Under the offer, the pay structure is reformed so that crown prosecutors can move more quickly to the top; at present, if a lawyer was appointed at the bottom of the scale, this could take him eight years.

Once at the top, there is the possibility of awards earned through "performance" points, up to £20,532 compared with the current top salary of £16,576.

The pay package is effectively staggered: the 600 crown prosecutors receive a 7 per cent rise from April 1, when the top scale rises from £16,576 to £17,736.

On October 1, the scales are restructured and the present starting point scrapped. This means that the new starting point moves from £11,603 to £13,125. This excludes allowances paid for working in and around London.

At the same time, those at the top of the scale have the chance of three "performance" points, each 5 per cent above the other, to a top salary of £20,532.

Under the new scales which will come into effect in October, many crown prosecutors will receive a further rise ranging from 1.54 up to 5.6 per cent, making a total increase of between 7 and 12.63 per cent.

A similar flexible pay package is offered to senior and branch crown prosecutors, in line with that for the rest of the Government legal service, starting with 7 per cent from April 1 with the prospect of further increases in October.

The offer is going out shortly to First Division Association members and is likely, in principle, to be accepted. One lawyer commented: "The offer does seem rather starting compared to what we were paid when the CPS was set up. But it should go a long way towards helping the recruitment problem."

Fight against crime

Violence 'breeds in youth'

By Mark Ellis

Children are turning to crime from the age of 11 and the battle against street violence should be waged in their homes, classrooms and on television, Mr John Patten, Minister of State at the Home Office, said yesterday.

The seeds of criminality were sown at an early age, when politicians and government powers had no effect but influence could be exerted by parents, teachers and the media, Mr Patten told a conference in London.

He said the peak age for offending was 15. Thirty per cent of all recorded crime was committed by those aged 16 or younger.

Mr Patten, who has special responsibility for crime prevention, said the influences which decided if a child would "grow crooked or straight" were received at home, watching television and at school.

"We are only just beginning to get to know how to strike at the roots of criminality. The roots of aggression at work are found inside individuals and those individuals form attitudes to authorities and their fellow men and women at 11 or 12", he said.

Fear of crime was detracting from the quality of life of women and the elderly, although crimes of violence accounted for only 5 per cent of reported crime.

The police would gain thousands of extra man hours to tackle crimes of violence if their time was not spent investigating preventable burglaries. One in four happened because people left doors or windows open. Investigations into car thefts used up one million man hours last year, Mr Patten said. "Just imagine how much better police time could be spent if not so much time was wasted by people not taking care of their property."

Mr Patten outlined a number of initiatives to cut crime at the roots of aggression and vulnerability at work, which was organized by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust and London University's department of extra mural studies. However, he said that the problem could not be solved

by the police, the courts and probation services.

He said a big community effort was needed to tackle the causes of crime rather than deal with its symptoms. Violence at work was a reflection of a general trend in society. More needed to be done to break down the malign features of individual behaviour.

This task could not be done by the Government and other agencies alone. However, Mr Patten said that the Government had launched an £11-million crime prevention advertising campaign covering the next three years. Last week, he had launched the "Safer Cities Programme" in Wolverhampton, one of 20 high-crime urban areas targeted for special efforts to cut the number of offences.

He said he had considered a blueprint for a national organization to spread news of successful crime prevention schemes and to swap ideas, as well as to co-ordinate voluntary and public sector efforts.

Jet carver revives a dying craft



Mr Roy Jay displaying samples of his jet jewellery and other objects at his Whitby workshop (Photograph: Chris Harris).

By Peter Daveport

In a dim and dusty attic workshop which could have come straight from a Charles Dickens novel, Mr Roy Jay tries to keep alive an ancient but almost defunct craft.

At its height, the manufacture of jewellery from jet, a semi-precious, coal-black stone, provided 1,500 jobs at the fishing port of Whitby, North Yorkshire.

Mr Jay, aged 42, is the only apprentice-trained jet carver still working in the town, turning out a big range of articles from rings at about £5 each to specially commissioned necklaces or carvings which sell for hundreds of pounds.

He learnt the craft in a five-year apprenticeship from the age of 15 and

still uses traditional tools and techniques. It is delicate but dirty work. "Everything is permanently covered in a fine black dust and that includes me. It's like working at the coal face and I have to get bathed every evening when I finish."

Mr Jay, who is married with two teenage sons, produces his jewellery and carvings in a two-room workshop at the top of a narrow, winding staircase above the family gift shop near the harbour. Several members of the Royal Family and the Pope have pieces of his work.

Whitby is the only place in Britain where jet of sufficient quality is found. Its use in jewellery dates back 10,000 years to the Bronze Age, with jet beads having been found at burial sites.

Its height of popularity came when Queen Victoria chose to wear jet as a sign of mourning after the death of the Prince Consort. However, it was its association with death, the trade which created the boom, that led to its decline.

There are no longer any working jet miners and a few others who have trained themselves depend for their raw material on jet washed up on the beach or found lying in exposed seams in the cliffs.

However, Mr Jay said: "I don't want my sons to take up the business unless they specifically want to, so I suppose in a few years I am going to have to start training somebody who can carry on the tradition when I finally finish."

Spotlight on job training

Firms 'must invest more in people'

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

The economic success of Britain in the next decade will depend on investing in people rather than machinery, a conference in London will be told today.

The biggest conference on training to be held in Europe, with more than 1,200 experts taking part, will be told by Mr Roger Dawe, director general of the Manpower Services Commission (MSC), that the critical factor for advancement in the 1990s will be the application of knowledge and skills.

Mr Dawe will tell the opening of the three-day Human Resource Development conference at the Barbican that employers should regard training not as a social responsibility but as an investment and the key to productivity.

Mr Dawe says it is vital that people should begin their working lives with a good foundation of skills and that these should be updated throughout their working lives.

Employers must devote sufficient resources to training. The conference, organized by the Institute of Training and Development (ITD) with the assistance of the MSC, will open with a speech by the Secretary of State for Employment, Mr Norman Fowler.

He is expected to remind his audience that more than two-thirds of the people who will form the workforce of Britain in the year 2,000 have already started their working lives.

Mr Brian Nickson, professional development manager of the ITD, said many firms still had no training structure and had no plans for such a structure.

"The simple fact is that it will work much better with it", Mr Nickson said.

Mr John Morris, managing director of Performance Improvement Ltd, will argue that effective selling by companies depends on good management as well as good training.

Many people, even at the highest levels, fail to realize that sales force development goes further than a training course, he said.

"We need to ask questions about the product itself. Is it the right product for the market and is it being sold at the right price?"

"If management has failed in its market analysis, in its motivation of staff then the problem lies with management itself, not the sales force."

by Sarah Jane Checkland Art Market Correspondent

Liberace's popularity living on at auction

The popularity of Liberace is undimmed judging from the prices his possessions continue to fetch in Los Angeles.

On Sunday, the second of a four-day sale, his driving licence was snapped up for \$4,125 (£2,330) — \$4,000 more than its estimate. One of his pairs of cowboy boots, appliqued with his grand piano motif, fetched \$1,760 or £994 (estimate up to \$300).

Proceedings were punctuated by whoops of glee from one Robert Nye, an American piano dealer determined to steal the show. He whooped when he bought a concert grand piano for \$24,750 (£13,983) on Saturday, and he whooped when he secured a Norwegian silver fox coat for \$11,000 (£5,851) on Sunday — double its estimate.

The highest prices of all on Sunday, however, were for more traditional collectables, such as the Napoleon III bronze, bronze and patinated bronze-mounted "Sevres" porcelain table, which sold for twice its estimate at \$18,700 (£10,564).

The sale, in the Los Angeles Convention Center, is proving a huge social event. By the end of Sunday, the running total was standing at \$1.1 million.

Habsburg Feldman, the new Geneva auction house which started off with disastrous results last autumn, pressed on into the limelight last weekend, announcing its forthcoming sale of a collection of glass by the Frenchman, Galic. Comprising 108 items, and estimated at up to \$5 million in total, the sale will take place on June 27, after a worldwide tour.

Further good fortune came for Habsburg's at its watch and clock sale on Sunday, at which it achieved a world record total of 5.3 million Swiss francs (£2.2 million), with 80 per cent sold.

A sixteenth century Persian manuscript which failed to sell last time Sotheby's offered it, in 1985, fetched top price of £22,000 at Sotheby's Oriental Manuscript and Miniature sale yesterday. It sold for £8,000 below its lower estimate to an anonymous buyer.

Meissen china fetched the highest prices at Christie's Continental Ceramics sale in London. A saucer dish modelled with the shapes of swans, fetched top price of £15,400, or double its estimate. The total for the day's sale was £391,407.

Paperwork cut frees police

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Home Office is supporting moves to free more police officers for the beat and make the best use of expanding resources.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, praised yesterday ways of relieving police of paperwork and the use of neighbourhood special constables to help cut crime.

He said that it cost £24,300 a year, including salary, uniforms, transport and work accommodation, to keep an officer in a provincial post.

"I do not doubt that police numbers will and must continue to increase", he said. However, pressure for expansion must be accompanied by imaginative thinking about the way resources are used.

Mr Hurd, speaking to a Police Foundation conference at Oxford, said he was impressed by an administrative support unit in the West Midlands which achieved "remarkable success" in diverting paperwork to civilians.

"The police service needs meticulous paperwork if it is to safeguard the innocent and convict the guilty. But the less paperwork falls on the beat officer the more crime he can prevent and detect."

At Wyke, Bradford, West Yorkshire, police were deploying neighbourhood special constables, recruited from within their own community, to support Neighbourhood Watch schemes and other local crime prevention initiatives, and to supplement community constables.

The Wyke initiative had led to cuts in several types of crime. A 75 per cent reduction in residential burglary, against a force increase of 3.1 per cent, was achieved in 1986 when the scheme was introduced.

Mr Hurd said factors which had been thought to be important in determining police effectiveness were shown by research not to be so. "Thus the time the police spend on an investigation and the speed

of their response are not directly related to success.

"And although more officers can clear up more crimes, the expense involved in increasing manpower, without any accompanying rethink of police strategies, would be out of all proportion to the increase in crimes solved."

Differences in effectiveness between police forces might depend on the way the police recorded clear-ups rather than differences in the number of officers they caught. They might depend also on the type of crime in an area.

Research suggested that, in order to achieve greater effectiveness, it was necessary to analyze local patterns of crimes and incidents.

Mr Hurd said targeting of manpower increases had improved. Of 430 posts in 1986-87, 300 went on patrol and resident beat duties in specific areas.

Heseltine challenge on provincial aid

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Mr Michael Heseltine yesterday underlined his Tory leadership ambitions with a speech setting out his vision of a Britain in which all regions shared in the country's new prosperity.

Clearly challenging the Government's "hands off" approach, the former Cabinet minister set out a radical interventionist programme for channelling resources away from the South-east and into the revitalization of the provinces and their run-down urban areas.

Mr Heseltine, in self-imposed exile from the Government, sought to capitalize on widespread Tory unease over the so-called north-south divide, and on the growing fears of many Tory MPs representing rural southern seats that economic pressure for development could irrevocably destroy the countryside.

He also attacked the Government's apparent belief that the private sector alone could lead the revival of Britain's inner cities.

challenge) without unacceptable damage to the countryside of southern England and the political balance of Britain itself", he said. The Channel tunnel and the third London airport would accelerate the concentration of resources in the South-east.

At the root of the problem was a tax system maintained by successive governments that had destroyed efficient provincial family businesses and encouraged the concentration of wealth by pension funds and public companies in the South-east.

Regional incentives amounted to some £200 million a year, but those were just "a sop to political consciences" compared with the billions of pounds accounted for by these hidden subsidies.

Entrepreneurial independence in the provinces had disappeared. Nor was there any evidence to suggest that this centralization led to greater efficiency or productivity. "We appear to be subsidizing a process that not only overheats the south and impoverishes the provinces but doesn't even work industrially or economically", he said.

Mr Heseltine was careful to acknowledge the continued success of the Government's economic policies, but based his appeal on a more productive use of the fruits of that success. He said that today's political challenge was not how to generate economic growth, but how best to contain and distribute the consequences of it.

"We shall need all the ingenuity we can muster if we are to meet (that

Women do poorly in jobs battle

Men are twice as likely to get senior white-collar council jobs in Oxford, in spite of women applicants outnumbering them by three to one.

A full review of the recruitment and training of women to the housing department of the city council has been ordered. Mr Richard Peacock, director of housing, said his department's shortcomings were highlighted in a report yesterday to the women's sub-committee of the council, but it also applied to other sections.

Of all applications for jobs in the housing department, 72 per cent were from women. Women have a 7 per cent chance of being appointed, but male applicants have a 14 per cent chance. The housing department has three men for every two women.

April 11 1988

Exchange rate policy queried

Reports of "recent disagreements in high places on exchange-rate policy" had caused confusion and uneasiness, Lord Ezra (SLD) said during questions.

He asked whether those disagreements had been resolved and whether, in the light of last week's reduction in interest rates, it was now the firm objective of government policy to ensure a stable exchange rate to enable Britain to counter the increasing amount of imports.

Lord Brabazon of Tara, a government Treasury spokesman, replied amid laughter: "I do not accept that there was a disagreement". Greater exchange-rate stability would bring advantages in the economy in general and to industry in particular.

"Exchange rate stability does not mean immobility, and adjustments are needed from time to time."

Young puts space case

Lord Young of Graham, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, repeatedly denied that he had misled the House of Lords over the deadline for a decision on whether to collaborate with Canada on the earth observation satellite, Radarsat.

He was called to the House of Lords by Lord Shackleton (Lab), a former Leader of the Lords, and chairman of the science and technology select committee, to explain the state of negotiations with Canada and whether there had been a deadline of March 31.

(Lord Young, at the end of a debate on space policy on March 30, told peers that the Government would respond to the Canadians in good time and that the time was not tomorrow night. The Government had longer than that.)

Lord Young said there was no specific deadline. The decision on Radarsat had to be set within the context of decisions on other earth observation satellites, particularly the European Space Agency's Columbus polar-orbiting space platform, but the decision would be made very soon.

Lord Shackleton said that he would not accuse Lord Young of

deliberately misleading the House, but it might have been better for the Secretary of State to have explained the situation in the debate on March 30.

"Is Lord Young just relying on the goodwill of the Canadians?"

Lord Young said that Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister of State for Trade and Industry, had written to his opposite number in Canada, Mr Frank Oberle, on March 21.

"We are not in a fit of enthusiasm, going to be rushed into making a decision."

The Government had three earth observation projects to consider by April 18. He said that he did not mislead the House and, indeed, if he had he would have apologized.

PARLIAMENT

'Hideous' building criticized

If the Government were to move the Department of the Environment out of its Marsham Street building, it would enable "one of the most hideous structures in the capital" to be demolished, Lord St John of Fawley (C) said during questions about the future of County Hall, which is for sale after the abolition of the Greater London Council.

Lord St John of Fawley said he was disappointed that the Government had not taken the opportunity to isolate one part of the country from its proposals to see how they worked in practice.

Regional development grants had been successful. They had been an important aspect of regional policy for many years. In a report in February 1987, the Department of Trade and Industry had said that the scheme was an important factor in investment decisions. He had found in travelling the world to seek investment for Scotland that the existence of a grant was an important weapon.

Plea to save Scots grant aid rejected

An attempt to allow Scotland to continue to qualify for regional development grants when the Bill to abolish them comes into effect was rejected.

Under the Regional Development Grants (Termination) Bill, automatic grants of funds from central government to areas of high unemployment will be replaced by non-automatic grants for projects shown to be viable and of importance to the economy.

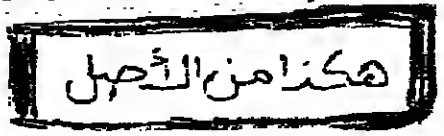
Lord Taylor of Gryfe (SDP), moving an amendment during the committee stage of the Bill to exclude Scotland from its provisions, said the amendment gave the Government an opportunity to isolate one part of the country from its proposals to see how they worked in practice.

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Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Social Services; Prime Minister; School Boards (Scotland) Bill, second reading.

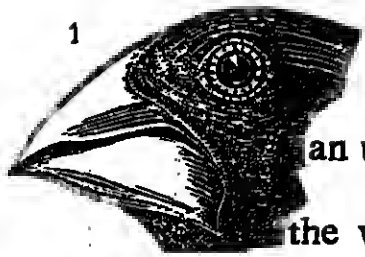
Lords (2.30): Immigration Bill, report.



RANK XEROX

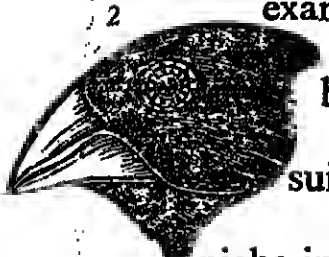
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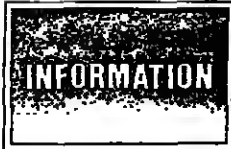


have reached them if information technology

had been around to help him.

Or would it have hindered him?

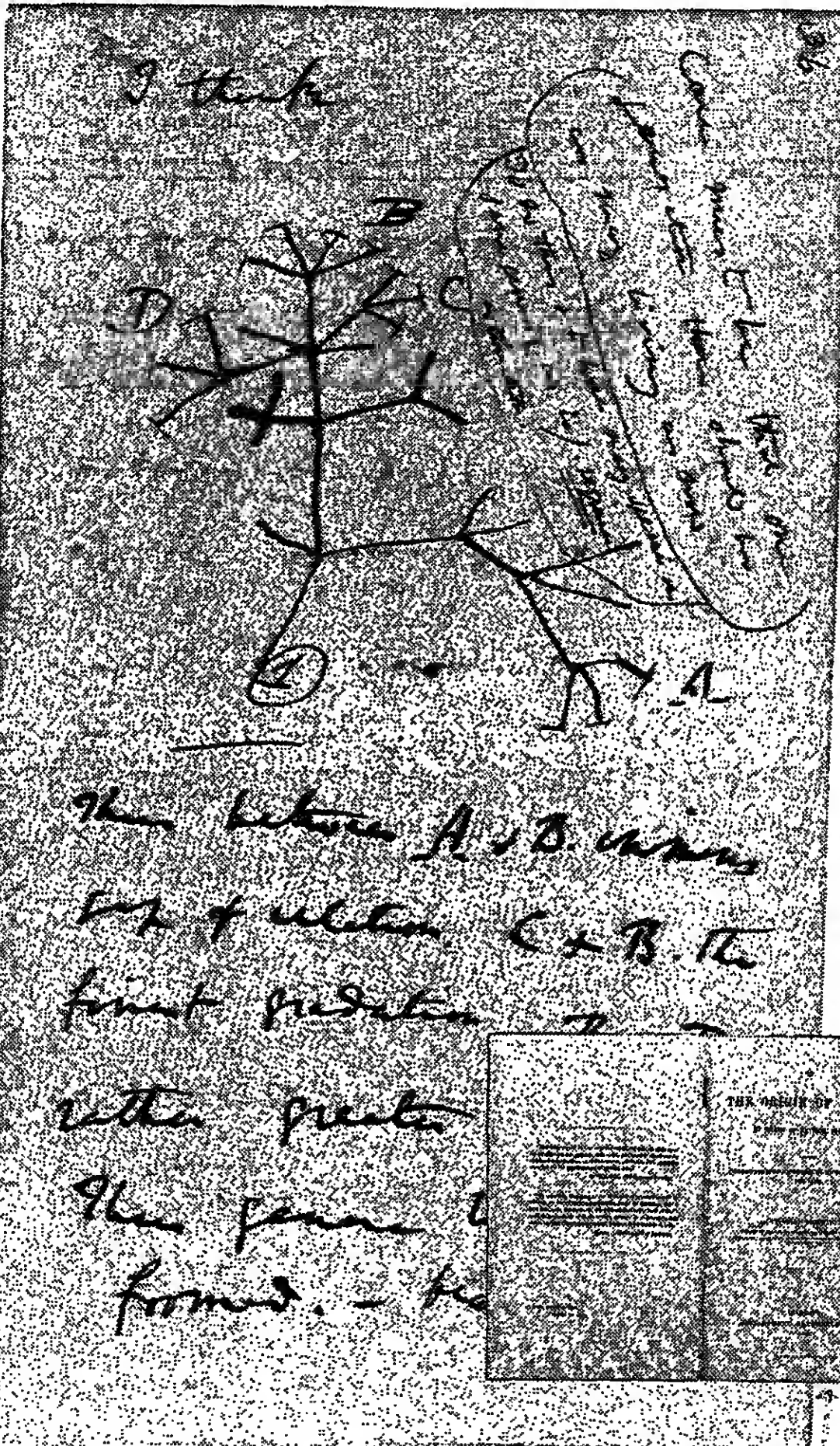
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WORLD ROUNDUP

US scholar took Lincoln papers

Boston (AP) - A scholar was convicted yesterday of transporting stolen historic documents, including letters from Abraham Lincoln and Winston Churchill, that belonged to the National Archives and the Library of Congress.

Panama plea for cash

Miami - Panama's cash-starved Government has appealed to Latin American nations for a supply of dollar notes to break the US stranglehold on its economy.

The Finance Minister, Señor Ricaurte Vázquez, has written to the Latin American Economic System (Sela), into cash so that its banking system can reopen.

Steelworkers protest

Bonn - About 200 steel workers blocked a bridge over the Rhine at Düsseldorf during the morning rush hour yesterday to protest against the planned closure of a Krupp steel plant at Duisburg-Rheinhausen in the Ruhr.

The men then staged a demonstration outside the North Rhine-Westphalia state Parliament, where Herr Johannes Rau, the Prime Minister, told a delegation that he was prepared to act as a mediator between the works council and management if his services would be accepted.

UN goes to court

The Hague (Reuters) - The United Nations has urged the International Court of Justice in The Hague to intervene in a dispute over the attempt by the United States to close the PLO's United Nations mission.

A US anti-terrorism law passed by Congress in December called for the PLO mission to be closed. The US Justice Department filed a suit in the federal district court last month to close the mission after PLO officials refused to comply with the new law.

Mecca protest urged

Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian leader, yesterday urged Iranian pilgrims to ignore Saudi pleas and demonstrate in Mecca on this year's Muslim pilgrimage "against infidels, America and Israel".

The Ayatollah said at his Tehran home that he hoped 150,000 Iranians would make the pilgrimage, starting at the beginning of July. This is three times the number of Iranians that the Saudi authorities have said they will allow in.

Peking beauty stakes

Peking (Reuters) - Peking is planning to hold its first beauty contest since the communist takeover, the China Daily newspaper said yesterday. The Communist Party has always frowned on such events as decadent.

Mont St Michel rescue

Saving an island from a sea of mud

From Philip Jacobson, Mont St Michel

As the first waves of spring tourists converge on the world-famous attraction of Mont St Michel off the coast of Normandy, the French Government has authorized the next stage of a £25 million project to prevent the island from being left high and dry.

The rescue operation for a site that draws more than 1.5 million visitors to the region each year is designed to reverse the relentless silting up of the lovely bay that has already affected local tides so drastically that only one in every 10 now rises to cut off the rocky mount with its towering medieval abbey from the mainland at the other end of its narrow causeway.

The result is now all too visible. On an average day, Mont St Michel lies in the centre of an expansive stretch of bleak mud flats with a covering of vegetation on which flocks of sheep, destined to become the much sought after salt-lamb of the area, are grazing.

Another three or four years of receding waters, and France's biggest tourist attraction outside Paris, listed by Unesco as one of the treasures of the world, could well have lost contact with the sea for ever.

man and nature, this "new" arable land continues to expand literally almost daily. The 100-year-old causeway which was once lashed by great storms has risen so steadily on the undisturbed sediment around it that the main coach park (capacity 50,000 vehicles) is now below the old mooring rings.

Local farmers, not surprisingly, take a radically different view of things. The dykes and dams that cover the flat lands behind Mont St Michel are, they insist, vital for flood prevention. The extra grazing land produced is simply a bonus. In any case, they wonder, why should the handful of people doing very nicely from tourism for barely a third of the year impose their views on the mainland?

Caught between the two lobbies, the Government has opted for an elaborate and expensive scheme to create a network of reservoirs and tidal basins along the Couesnon river running to the west of the mount. The aim is to recreate the vast "flushing" movement the tides once had and to sweep great quantities of the sediment back out to sea.

Extensive study of simulation models by French experts suggests that this can be achieved without the risk of disastrous flooding of the mainland or even sweeping away the reclaimed terrain. Preliminary work is to begin at the end of 1988 and will continue for about five years.

Neither the local farmers nor Mont St Michel's traders are happy with the outcome, though it is hard to see how else both could have been at least partially satisfied. One sensitive issue remains: what will happen to the causeway?

As things stand, it will interfere significantly with the proposed ferret flow of water around the mount. Among suggestions being considered, with great enthusiasm on the seaward side, is a graceful wooden bridge or a brand new tunnel through which 21st-century visitors would glide on electric carriages to discover the marvels of the sacred island.

Hijack murder according to the clock

From Robert Fisk, Larnaca

There was an awesome familiarity about it all in which only for a second - when the body was pushed from the doorway - could one grasp the terrible thing that was happening. One of the hijackers had warned earlier that there would be another killing, but had then chattered on to the control tower about fuel tonnage and aviation spirit for flight KU 422 like a trainee pilot at a flying school.

First we saw two legs dangling from the aircraft, then the trunk of some indistinguishable figure bending forward. Someone must have been pushing the dead man; perhaps he was heavy, for he dropped from the aircraft like a sack and bounced on the tarmac beneath. Murder had come according to the clock; trapped by their own expired deadline, framing their deed with the rhetoric of amateur lawyers, the gunmen on the Kuwaiti jet had participated again in their own grisly theatre.

The cameras captured the fall, the moment of impact, the body lying in a helpless, spread-out way, the man's galibeya robe blowing up above his bare knees in breeze so that he lay there like a woman.

There was a silence in which all

somehow took part. The cameras stopped, the control tower officials stared through binoculars at the form below the aircraft. The hijackers maintained radio silence. It was all 10 minutes before a Cypriot voice could be heard, coldly, almost indifferently questioning an unusual object on the runway - as if a vehicle had been inexpertly parked on the apron.

"We have seen something on the ground by the aircraft," the voice said innocently. "Can you give us any information?" There was only a brief pause. The hijackers must have been waiting for this moment. When a voice came back from the flight deck of the plane, it was hard, confident. The words were partly couched in pseudo-legal language. The 10 minutes' silence had obviously been employed by the hijackers in preparing their literary endeavour.

"Statement from hijackers of KU 422," he began unnecessarily. "We hereby announce to the Kuwaiti and Cypriot governments that we executed a Kuwaiti officer and this is due to the wish of the Cypriot Government which had decided to support the criminal countries against the people looking for freedom..." The hijackers enjoy the use of the word "herby" - they had used it several times already, the

voice carried no irony when it phrased the word "execute". The phrase "criminal countries" long ago entered the lexicon of Shia Muslim political philosophy in Beirut. The clichés made the statement all the more awful. Every few seconds, the voice would stop; "Go ahead," the control tower would urge. And the hijacker went on: "As broadcast by news agencies, we also reconfirm that the craft would be refuelled immediately before we take more dangerous steps."

In retrospect, it was probably inevitable. The voice had been growing harsher during the morning, arguing in an irritated nervous fashion about the method of transport which the PLO negotiators should use to reach the aircraft. He should walk to the plane from the control tower. He should drive half the way and then walk. In the end, Mr Malaz Abdo drove all the way.

The control tower had warned the hijackers that when they talked over the radio "others might listen". Indeed they might, not just the hundreds of journalists in the airport terminal with their VHF radios but the less public men across the Mediterranean in Lebanon who could listen to the drama live on their own more powerful sets in the southern suburbs of Beirut. The hijackers' pattern of speech

was sometimes hesitant, often unframed, frequently injected with artificial confidence. The first sign that something was snapping aboard the plane came after more requests for fuel at 10.10. "In the name of Allah, the most merciful," the voice began - and it became clear that this little speech had been written in advance - "we have already given the Cyprus Government and Kuwait officials our good intentions and enough time, but they think we are weak and hesitating."

Kuwait had refused to respond to their request. Cyprus would not refuel the aircraft. "We hereby announce that we insist on having the fuel within one hour only, otherwise there will be another reading."

"Another reading". It was a phrase that was likely to be remembered. A Koranic reading was what he meant, for those about to die. There were more demands for fuel, 104 tons of it, and a threat that if refuelling did not begin within an hour "we will kill a personality related to the unjust Kuwait regime". Most people thought this must refer to one of the three members of the Kuwait royal family aboard the aircraft. But it did not. There was more talking about fuel, and then the voice came back from the cockpit, his words enunciated

angry. "This is the final extension - either after 30 minutes we receive the fuel or you receive the corpse."

"Thank you," the control tower replied automatically. The hijackers must have gone on discussing their forthcoming action, but they talked again about the tonnage of fuel. But then the aircraft door opened.

"Shall we send the ambulance to pick up the corpse before you read the message again?" the control tower asked. The voice seemed tired this time. Work had to go on at Larnaca airport. The voice from the aircraft was wide awake, the words spoken quickly, still breathless after the act which had taken place. "Okay - okay," it said. "Send the ambulance."

PARIS: Negotiations for the release of the three remaining French hostages held in Lebanon were on a knife edge last night as the hijack saga continued (Philip Jacobson writes). The worst fears of the authorities here were confirmed at the weekend by threats from the Islamic Jihad group in Beirut to kill their foreign captives if an attempt was made to storm the jet.

Israel expels eight Palestinian agitators

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

Israel yesterday expelled eight Palestinians to Lebanon and is planning to expel another 12, the Army said.

The eight, five from the West Bank and three from the Gaza Strip, were described as having played a leading role in fomenting unrest in the Israeli occupied territories during the past four months.

Israel Radio reported that they were taken by helicopter to the northern edge of the Israeli-controlled security zone, put in taxis and sent into Lebanese territory. They were allowed to take only a couple of plastic bags with some personal items.

Among the eight deported was Abdel Aziz Odeh, aged 38, who is regarded by Israeli security authorities as spiritual leader of the Islamic Jihad - Palestinian guerrilla movement. He is a lecturer at Gaza's Islamic University, where his arrest in November sparked student riots.

The others deported are: Furaiy Ahmed Khalil Khayri, aged 39, vice-chairman of the Engineers' Union in the Gaza Strip, who served several jail terms for activity in Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, the mainstream wing of the PLO;

Adil Bashir Nafa Hamad, aged 27, of Kalandia refugee

camp near Ramallah, West Bank, who was sentenced in 1983 for incitement and hostile propaganda and scheduled then for deportation. He founded the local section of the Fatah youth movement Shabiba, outlawed by Israel last month;

Muhammed Abu Samara, aged 26, from Gaza, a student at the Islamic University, who

Lawyers protest about camp

Jerusalem (Reuters) - Israeli and Palestinian lawyers protested jointly yesterday at conditions at an Israeli detention camp for Palestinians in the Negev desert and the jailing without trial of three Palestinian lawyers. They said that some 3,000 detainees had been deprived of water and denied access to lawyers.

has been arrested and sentenced four times for anti-Israeli activities.

Khalil Kuka, aged 39, of Gaza city, a teacher employed by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees, who served as imam of the mosque in the Shati refugee camp.

Hasan Ghanim Muhammad Abu Shakra, aged 27, from Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip, who is said by Israel to be a Muslim fundamentalist who incited the public to attack the Israeli Army and Jews; Abdel-Nasser Abu Aziz

Afu, aged 31, from Jenin in the West Bank, a student at an-Najah University in Nablus, who was serving a five-year jail sentence for membership of the Syrian-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine;

Jamal Shatti Hindi, aged 30, from Jenin refugee camp in the West Bank, an ex-prisoner and student leader accused of

Violence wanes in East Jerusalem but shopkeepers deny strike is crumbling

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem

There have been growing signs in recent weeks that, in Arah East Jerusalem at least, the four-month-old Palestinian uprising is beginning to run out of steam.

Few incidents are now reported, encouraging Israel's over-extended police force to announce that it is reducing significantly its presence both in East Jerusalem and in the surrounding villages.

But while there has clearly been a fall-off in violent protest, the commercial strike to the city appears to be holding firm. Since December shopkeepers throughout the Arah half of the city have been observing meticulously a strike ordered by the leaders of the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which allows them to open for business only between 9am and noon.

At noon the steel shutters

come down throughout the city. It is almost as though someone has issued a typhoon warning. Within half an hour, the normally bustling Saladin Road, the main commercial thoroughfare in the Arab half of the city, as well as the usually teeming alleys of the Old City, are all but deserted.

The Israelis have lately been trying to convey the impression that the strike may be starting to crumble. The usually reliable Army radio station, Galci Zahal, reported on Tuesday, for example, that shops in the Old City remained open throughout the day - a claim that merchants in the souk deny categorically.

They were certainly shut shortly after noon the next day, when there was no sign whatever of the Passover crowds the Army radio claimed were beginning to

being leader of the Shabiba youth movement at an-Najah University.

The 12 Palestinians against whom the Army issued expulsion orders yesterday include six from the West Bank village of Beita allegedly involved in Wednesday's bloody confrontation with the group of Israeli settlers in the village.

They have the right to appeal against their expulsion, first to a standing army committee and if that upholds the orders served on them, to the Supreme Court in Jerusalem. The Supreme Court yesterday lifted the ioterim

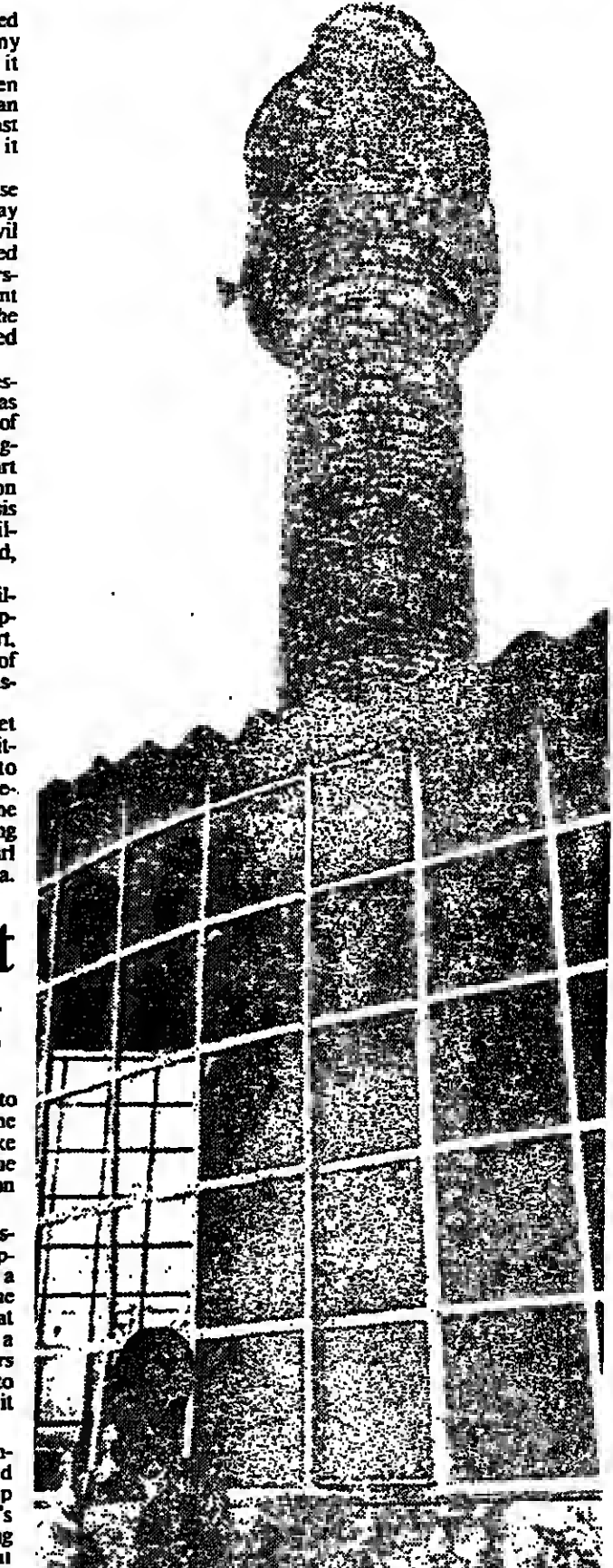
injunction it had issued against demolition of any further houses in Beita. But it ordered that villagers be given 48 hours' notice and an opportunity to appeal against any demolition order before it was carried out.

The ruling came in response to a petition lodged on Sunday by the Association of Civil Rights in Israel, which argued that the drastic and irreversible nature of the punishment made it imperative that the Beita villagers were protected against false incrimination.

Israel Radio reported yesterday that the Army has admitted that at least one of 14 houses - allegedly belonging to villagers who took part in Wednesday's confrontation - was demolished on the basis of false testimony. The villagers will be compensated, the radio said.

The new ruling gives villagers an opportunity to appeal to the Supreme Court, making the demolition of homes no longer the sole discretion of the Army.

The settlers yesterday met the Defence Minister, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, in an effort to defuse heightened tension between themselves and the Army over their differing accounts of how an Israeli girl and two villagers died at Beita.



An Arab boy standing outside the mosque in Beit Ummar in the West Bank. Villagers claim that all its windows were smashed by Israeli soldiers using a marble-shooting cannon.

Cuomo wipes his name from Democratic slate

From Charles Bremner, New York

Governor Mario Cuomo of New York yesterday tried to lift the long shadow he has cast over the confused Democratic presidential field by stating for the first time that he would not accept a draft to become candidate, even if the party asked him.

Mr Cuomo, who is widely seen as his party's most eligible potential president, spoke out after a weekend of confusion over his plans as the real candidates fought to impress the big Jewish electorate in his home state a week ahead of the primary election here.

The Rev Jesse Jackson, for example, broke new ground by saying that he would refuse to meet Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization leader.

"It's been such a story, such a large irrelevance," said Mr Cuomo in his strongest denial that he had been positioning himself to be drafted if no strong candidate emerges from the long primary race. Talk of a Cuomo draft intensified after the victory of Mr Jackson in the Michigan caucuses last month.

Asked by The New York

Times if he would refuse to accept a draft, Mr Cuomo replied: "Yes. You're absolutely correct. That's accurate. Now I hope there are no questions left about my role." The Governor also ruled out the possibility of his running as vice-presidential candidate.

The Cuomo statement was good news for Mr Michael Dukakis, the Governor of Massachusetts, although an endorsement would have been a lot more welcome. Despite his continuing failure to bridge what the media call

"the passion gap" - his inability to inspire enthusiasm - Mr Dukakis has reassessed himself as campaign front-runner, according to opinion polls and the political pundits.

Mr Jackson, whose passion is his big asset, fixed his position on Mr Arafat after local Jewish leaders and Mayor Edward Koch made it clear that he had not been forgiven his anti-Jewish remarks in 1984 and the 1979 meeting at which he embraced the PLO chief.

He said that if elected President, he would not nego-

tiate with Mr Arafat and that the PLO should accept Israel's right to exist. Mr Koch, the most vocal Democratic critic of the black leader, immediately accused him of "fudging" his views "to convince people that they shouldn't be afraid of his positions on Israel".

Mr Albert Gore, the distant underdog from Tennessee, is using the Jackson-Arafat embrace to help him woo the Jewish vote, which usually accounts for 25 per cent of the Democratic turnout in the state.

He spent the weekend hopping from one Passover celebration to another, basking in the approval of Jewish militants. "It's not that Jackson is black," said Rabbi Bernard Freiblich of Brooklyn. "He could be white and we'd feel the exact same way. It's the statements that he's made. It's what he's done."

Mr Dukakis has not won much support from the Jewish leaders with his decision to observe the conventional wisdom that Mr Jackson's race makes it politically dangerous to attack his views.

Malta's knights break with past to elect a Scots leader

From Roger Boyes, Rome

A Briton has been elected Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta for the first time since the days of the Crusaders.

The new leader of the Order - which has many of the trappings of an independent state - is a former schoolmaster, Mr Andrew Bertie, aged 59.

substantial minority of the 36 electors, wanted a fellow countryman. And there was support, too, for the Grand Prior of Bohemia.

Mr Bertie was backed by the United States - including the multi-millionaire Mr Peter Grace, who sits on the electoral council - and others concerned that the Order had become too lax and too concerned with ceremonies.

Insiders say that Mr Bertie will bring in more "professed knights" - that is those who adhere to monastic vows - to give the Order a stricter discipline. But at the same time he is said to be open to expanding the Order's influence overseas and to

establishing new diplomatic missions overseas.

Mr Bertie, a relative of the Earl of Lindsay and Abingdon and a member of one of the longest established Catholic families in Britain, used to teach modern languages at a Benedictine school in Worth. When his work for the Order (such as organizing pilgrimages) became too much, he resigned and moved to Malta. The Nationalist Party Government in Malta - which has invited the Order back to the island - is overjoyed.

Mr Bertie was educated at Ampleforth and Christ Church, Oxford, where he read modern

history. He is multilingual (German, French, Spanish, Russian and Tibetan, to name just a few), and was able to win the confidence of many of the Order's Italian, Spanish and German staff.

Vatican sources say that the Pope, himself a foreigner running a primarily Italian bureaucracy, has high hopes that he will be able to revive some of the priestly aspects of the sprawling charity organization. The Italian Knights are already speaking of Mr Bertie as a hardliner and fear a radical shake-up.

Mr Bertie is the first British Grand Master of the Order since High de Revel, who held the post in

the 13th Century. The Sovereign Military Order runs more than 200 hospitals in about 90 countries - a throwback to the days when it cared for sick Christian pilgrims and Crusaders in the Holy Land. Out of these protective functions grew other military and defensive tasks, such as the fortification of Valletta in Malta. Now the Order issues its own passports, coins, stamps and car number plates, and has embassies in more than 50 countries.

Both the President of Italy, Signor Francesco Cossiga, and the Pope welcomed the election in statements yesterday. The formal swearing-in ceremony will be today.

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Zia tries to stem outrage at arms blast

From Edward Gorman, Islamabad

President Zia moved quickly yesterday to head off growing public outrage over the disaster at an ammunition dump on the edge of Islamabad which sent thousands of rockets and shells into residential areas, killing 93 people.

He arrived here in the early hours of yesterday morning from the Islamic summit meeting in Kuwait. After touring the disaster area at Faisalabad, just four miles from the centre of Islamabad, he told a packed press conference at the Presidential Palace that the Government and people of Pakistan should be rightly praised for the fortitude and spirit they had shown in the face of adversity.

"In the last 12 years I have never seen the people so united and appreciative of the efforts made by the Government," he said. "If a nation can display unity in a crisis it is rightly to be called a nation."

He said that 93 people had been killed on Sunday and 1,100 had been injured. Just over half of the injured had been discharged after treatment in hospital. Thirty-three people had died in central Islamabad, including Mr Khan Abbasia, a member of the National Assembly, whose car was hit by a rocket. At the ammunition dump, seven soldiers had been killed and 32 had been injured.

President Zia said that an inquiry would report within 10 days. Compensation would be paid to the families of those killed or seriously injured. He

also said that he would set aside an additional 50 million rupees (£1.6 million) to supplement compensation payments, which would also cover damage to property.

While displaying his characteristic "paternalistic" sense in a crisis, the President left many questions unanswered. Although given two opportunities, he refused to confirm or deny reports that the dump at the Army camp had been a holding store for American-supplied ammunition and weapons destined for the Afghan Mujahideen.

He added that it was still not clear whether the explosion had been the result of an accident, sabotage or simple negligence.

The president's praise for the Army and the Government will do little to assuage his critics. An editorial in the English-language *Muslim* newspaper — traditionally a moderately dissenting voice — summed up the mood of growing anger and outrage.

It criticized the Army roundly for allowing an ammunition dump to be sited so close to populated areas, adding that the strict rules for the movement and storage of explosives "were evidently observed in their breach".

There was also criticism of the media and the civil administration for being lamentably slow in reacting as the scale of the disaster became apparent.

President Najibullah of Afghanistan sent a message of "deep grief and sorrow" to President Zia and called the



Motorcycle riders try to comfort a woman hurt by exploding ammunition in Islamabad.

At the scene of the disaster yesterday, thousands of unexploded shells still littered residential areas and fields close to the camp. Army demolition teams including, significantly, a US Navy bomb disposal unit, appeared to have made little headway in efforts to defuse and remove

rockets and bombs. Many residents had left for safety elsewhere, but there had still been no effective attempt to cordon off the worst affected areas. It was common to see families in their houses with live shells just yards away.

Fires at the main ammunition dump appeared to have been extinguished, but the situation clearly remains far

from stable, with the possibility of further explosions not yet discounted.

At Rawalpindi general hospital, half a mile from the camp, staff said they had treated 450 patients who had returned home. A further 140 people had been admitted, 62 of whom had serious operations. Twenty-two people died at the hospital.

Seoul dam will counter North's 'water bomb'

From Gavin Bell, Taebak Mountains, South Korea

At the end of a rough, dusty mountain road by the North Han River in central Korea, in a remote valley ringed by armed camps, a bizarre construction is in progress.

It is a massive dam, and its designers hope it will never be used. Its sole purpose is to counter the destructive potential of a similar project 12 miles to the north, across the Demilitarized Zone in North Korea.

The perceived threat is from a North Korean plan to dam the upper reaches of the river in the Kumgangsan (Diamond) Mountains and create a reservoir of several billion metric tons of water. If that dam were ever breached — by accident or design — South Korea fears it would send a gigantic tidal wave roaring through the Han River basin and into Seoul, 80 miles away, with the devastating impact of a nuclear explosion.

A government booklet entitled *Water Bomb over Seoul* describes the effects of such a catastrophe. Five smaller dams downstream would be washed away, the capital would be inundated within 12 hours, Olympic stadia would be submerged and the lives of 15 million people imperilled.

Of more concern to defence chiefs, the torrent would also destroy key frontline installations and isolate three military corps north of the river.

Even in its early stages of construction, South Korea says, the dam could hold enough water to flood the main competition venues and athletes' village for the Seoul Olympics in September.

The booklet concludes: "It seems more than obvious the dam has been planned as a means of psychological pressure on the South in peacetime, and as a formidable weapon in wartime."



provisional dam in a month which would threaten the Olympics. "Our priority is to protect the Games, and this will be achieved with completion of the first phase." Thereafter, the height of South Korea's Peace Dam would be increased to match progress on the Kumgangsan Dam.

Pyeonggiang says that its project, announced two years ago, involves four dams and a network of tunnels to divert water from the North Han and Imjin rivers to a power plant with an 810,000-kilowatt capacity near the eastern seaport of Wonsan. It says the Kumgangsan Dam will be considerably smaller than Seoul claims, and dismisses any thought of sinister intent as bellicose rhetoric.

Intelligence reports indicate that site preparation has begun at Kumgangsan, and work is well advanced on a 30-mile diversion tunnel heading north towards Wonsan.

Western diplomats are not convinced that the dam was designed as a weapon, since it

has no military sense to flood a potential invasion route.

"The North's motives are not clear," a senior diplomat said. "Whether they designed it as a water weapon will probably never be known, and the question is academic now the Peace Dam is in place."

Given the uncertainty, one might argue that the Korean conflict has risen to new heights of absurdity, with the Peace Dam a monument to paranoia. But Pyongyang's unpredictable regime has done nothing to inspire confidence by digging invasion tunnels beneath the DMZ and destroying a Korean Air jet with 115 people on board.

Its project ignores conventions on the sharing of international watercourses, and will reduce supplies to the South. It also threatens long-term ecological damage in the Taebak Mountains, a region of haunting beauty, and silt further downstream.

Irrespective of Pyongyang's intentions, South Korea is gravely concerned about the dam collapsing through human error or natural disaster. Its site is in the most earthquake-prone area of the Han River basin, on relatively weak limestone. Doubts are expressed about whether North Korea has the level of technical expertise and workmanship required.

Real or imagined, the threat has been enough to attract \$50 million (about £26.5 million) in a fund-raising campaign for the Peace Dam.

Mr Lee concludes: "We believe there is a high probability of dam failure at Kumgangsan, and nobody can say they will not breach it deliberately. If there is even one chance in a million of that dam bursting, we must construct a defensive barrier. It would be suicidal not to."

Tokyo looks to Europe for renewed friendship

Japan is determined to build up its relations with Western Europe as a central feature of its international policy. This was what I was told time and again throughout a week of discussions in Tokyo with politicians, officials and others outside government.

It gives particular point to the visit that Mr Noboru Takeshita, the Prime Minister, will be paying to London and other European capitals next month.

The Western community depends, so the line goes, on the triangular relationship between the United States, Western Europe and Japan. But the weak link in the triangle up to now has been between Europe and Japan.

Whether it is best to look at Japan's foreign policy in trilateral terms like this is questionable. It leaves out of account its relations with its Asian neighbours, which must always be critical.



Geoffrey Smith

that could lead to Japanese interests being overlooked.

The final treaty, eliminating all medium-range missiles, satisfied Japan. But before that the United States had been prepared to accept that while all INF should be removed from Europe, the Soviet Union should be allowed to keep a hundred missiles in Asia.

Japanese protests put a stop to that idea. But the episode was a reminder that Japanese and European security interests do not always coincide.

That is true of disarmament. It also applies when the United States is deciding how to apportion its troops and resources between Europe and Asia. So the Japanese feel that the more they are regarded as part of the Western defence community the more their voice is likely to be heard.

Second, they believe that Europe will be of increasing importance to them economically. That is partly because they expect the coming of the single European market in 1992 to provide an economic stimulus, and partly because they fear that it may discriminate more against those out-

side. Better, then, to have close links.

But the advance to Europe is also part of a wider trend. As Japan's economic power grows, so it is moving slowly and tentatively towards a broader political role. It is not quite sure yet how to do so. Throughout my week in Tokyo I became increasingly aware of the sharp contrast between Japan's economic confidence and its political diffidence.

It is conscious of being set apart from other nations.

Although it relies so heavily on the United States, it suspects that the Americans are really closer to Europe. Although it is an Asian country, it knows that any assertion of power would send shock waves of alarm throughout the region.

So there is an eagerness to reassess. Mr Takujiro Hamada, the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, emphasized to me that Japan would

Consciousness of being set apart

not assume a global role and was already committed not to be a big military power.

Yet the more widely Japan extends its direct investment round the world — which is a key element of its new economic strategy — the more extensive will its political interests be.

So the quiet, piecemeal, limited extension of Japan's military capacity can be expected to continue. But it will all be done in as low a key as possible.

What we are seeing now are the first uncertain gropings as Japan stretches out beyond the political tangle in which it has been willingly confined since the Second World War.

Cocaine charges bring Paris intellectuals to Sagan's side

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

There is only one place for the whole of Paris to be seen these days — on the petition supporting the author and playwright Françoise Sagan as she prepares to face charges of possessing cocaine.

The list of names published in the current issue of *Globe* magazine, compulsory reading for the capital's intellectual jet-set, ranges from the immensely distinguished French writer Marguerite Duras through prominent entertainers, actors and directors — Juliette Gréco, Jane Birkin, Jean-Claude Brialy — to social ever-presents like the model Inès de la Fressange and practising intellectuals (it is a full-time profession here) like Régis Debray.

Beneath what they clearly considered to be a daring and provocative headline demanding *Incluez-nous avec Sagan* (ie, charge us too), these luminaries defiantly admitted

to smoking a bit of dope, indulging in the occasional snort of cocaine. Mind you, they are all anti-drug, all very down on drug dealers: the point is that they think Miss Sagan is being victimized, the only superstar to face prosecution in an affair which apparently involves some 30 other prominent people.

Miss Sagan thinks so too, attributing her problems to a right-wing conspiracy to do her down because she is an ardent supporter of M François Mitterrand in the coming presidential election. It seems that back in 1986, when she was openly backing the Socialist election cause, her apartment had been raided by the drug squad (nothing was found). "I thought it was just coincidence, but twice is too much," she said.

According to the organizer of the petition, a considerable personality called Pierre Ber-

gé, who is president of Yves Saint-Laurent and also contributes a column to *Globe* on "Politics and Style", Miss Sagan is a deeply sensitive and fragile human being.

This may not fit everybody's image of a talented lady who has never tried to conceal her bruising encounters with life in the shape of alcohol, gambling, the French tax authorities and more besides.

Since Miss Sagan herself had nothing to do with preparation of the petition, and does not even know some of the signatories, she can hardly be blamed for that.

There is an irresistible footnote. When news of the petition broke in the press here, another 50 personalities rang M Bergé to complain that they had not been given a chance to get their own names in print. Social death, don't you see.

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Soviet economist calls for 'vital' radical reforms

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

A leading Soviet economist has published a radical new programme of Western-style economic reforms which he argues are vital if the ailing economy is to survive the growing conservative backlash being mounted by the enemies of perestroika.

Among the measures proposed to win support from a public bitterly disillusioned by the failure of perestroika to remedy drastic shortages are the widespread transfer of state farmland to individuals and sales of gold to raise cash for Western imports.

The sweeping new proposals were made in the influential journal *Novyi Mir* by Mr Nikolai Shmelev, one of the country's most progressive economic thinkers who caused a sensation last year when he advocated temporary unemployment as another means for rescuing the economy.

His latest article, titled "New Alarms", attracted wide attention in Moscow, where the official media, led by *Pravda*, has recently been devoting more space to the growing strength and determination of the lobby opposed to the Kremlin reforms.

Echoing observations made

by a number of senior Western diplomats here, Mr Shmelev said that better food supplies and consumer goods must be provided if the ordinary public was to be brought to support reform.

"Everything that is economically unfeasible is immoral, everything that is morally feasible is immoral," he proposed as a new Soviet economic philosophy.

Mr Shmelev also called for the scrapping of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's anti-alcohol campaign. In its three years, he said, the campaign had deprived the country of massive revenues and succeeded only in creating a black market for home-distilled liquor which was approaching the level of organized crime during American prohibition in the 1920s.

Pointing out that bureaucratic opposition to perestroika was increasing, especially in the regions, the economist warned that the failure of the Kremlin's present reform programme would put the Soviet Union "in the margins of history, turn it into an underdeveloped country".

Mr Shmelev added: "It cannot be excluded that if we do not achieve something

tangible, felt by everyone, in the next year or two, the fate of perestroika can come under threat.

Confounding complaints frequently made by Westerners by ordinary Muscovites, the economist declared: "There is widespread opinion... that the situation in the produce and mass consumer market has not only not improved, but has deteriorated. There are queues in the stores and empty shelves just as before."

A few days before the publication of yesterday's article, a senior Western diplomat here said privately that he believed the future of reform depended entirely on the Kremlin's ability to improve supplies of basic products, especially food. He said that without such an improvement, the public would not tolerate price increases which are promised as the next step to reform.

In a sweeping departure from traditional Communist Party economics, Mr Shmelev called for public dissatisfaction about supplies to be rectified by a sharp rise in imports mainly through "extraordinary hard currency spending" on Western products. The cash, he added,

could come from hard currency reserves, increased sales of gold - of which the Soviet Union is one of the world's largest producers - and foreign borrowing.

Mr Shmelev argued that the possibility of reducing military expenditure was another potential avenue for financing reform, but said that this was a separate issue. He claimed that the growth of foreign debt within limits was quite permissible.

The article, more radical than anything published before in the official media on the question of new economic methods, also claimed that economic reform could be financed by open sales to citizens of shares in Soviet industry and agriculture and through state bond issues.

The economist's call for an end to the clamp-down on alcohol appeared assured of public support. Alleging that two-thirds of alcohol sales now went to bootleggers instead of the state - which was facing a deficit of between \$1.5 and \$2 billion (about £800 million and more than £1 billion) a year as a result of alcohol revenues - Mr Shmelev called for a sharp cut in the price of vodka.

Showing support for Chirac



Two young supporters of M Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister and a candidate in the forthcoming presidential election, covering each other with images of their idol at a weekend rally.

Another candidate, M Raymond Barre, a former Prime Minister whose star has been fading in pre-election opinion polls, meanwhile said in an interview that he was not completely hurried yet (AFP reports from Paris). A new opinion poll published yesterday showed M Barre with only 16 per cent of voting intentions in the first round of the election.

M Chirac, his main conservative rival, was shown receiving 24.5 per cent, and the outgoing President Mitterrand, a Socialist, 37.5 per cent.

The poll showed a slight narrowing of the

gap between M Chirac and M Mitterrand, and a further slight fall for M Barre, who now appears to be leaving open the possibility of new cross-party alliances in the unlikely event of the election on April 24 and going on to beat M Mitterrand in the second, two weeks later.

Unlike M Chirac, who intends to form a new government based on his present conservative parliamentary coalition if elected, M Barre said that he would dissolve parliament and call a new election.

M Chirac is supported by his conservative Rally for the Republic party, the majority party in the coalition, whereas M Barre is backed by the less homogeneous Union for French Democracy, a loose centre-right federation.

Eight die as troops raid Tamil hideout

Colombo (Reuters) - Sri Lankan troops have stormed a Tamil rebel hideout in North Central Province, killing eight men thought to have massacred 14 civilians last week, a spokesman said yesterday.

He said two identity cards belonging to massacre victims were found in the camp. Troops raided the hideout in the jungles of Anuradhapura district, 10 miles north-east of Meegastawa, where Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrillas were said to have beheaded four victims after attacking a civilian convoy on Friday.

Gelli released

Prato, Italy (AP) - Signor Licio Gelli, aged 68, alleged mastermind of some of Italy's most sensational post-war political-financial scandals, has been temporarily released from prison here because of a serious heart condition.

Airlifts halted

Brussels (Reuters) - Belgium is suspending airlifts of food and medical supplies to parts of Ethiopia because of the danger to flight crews during fighting between government forces and rebels.

Arson arrests

Amsterdam (Reuters) - Police arrested six suspected members of a militant group connected with arson attacks in The Netherlands.

Gandhi visit

Bonn (AFP) - The Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, is to make a postponed official visit to West Germany from June 7.

Bus tragedy

Bangkok (Reuters) - At least 45 people died when a crowded bus plunged off the road into a canal north of here.

Kremlin warned of Estonian tensions

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

Leading intellectuals in the Baltic republic of Estonia have warned the Kremlin that nationalist tensions are growing because of centralized control being imposed from Moscow on nominally independent republics.

The declaration has added to the catalogue of ethnic difficulties now facing Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, who is still coping with the aftermath of the recent serious unrest in

Armenia and Azerbaijan. The intellectuals, leaders of Estonia's six cultural unions, also claimed that their nation was facing a "demographic crisis" because of uncontrolled immigration. At present, only 65 per cent of its 1.6 million population is Estonian, while 28 per cent is Russian.

In letters to the Communist Party conference scheduled for Moscow in June, and to their republic's party and gov-

ernment, the intellectuals alleged that the Estonian leadership had shown incompetence in handling local problems.

The letters, issued after a 20-hour meeting last week of the leaders of Estonia's official unions of writers, artists, composers, architects, journalists and theatrical workers, also accused the Soviet media of distorting the situation in the republic and of trying to blame problems on the West.

Speakers at the heated meeting called for Estonian to be declared the single official language and for non-Estonian speakers to be barred from official jobs. Several speakers also demanded that the republic have control over its economy.

● BELGRADE: *Gulag Archipelago*, Alexander Solzhenitsyn's account of life in Soviet labour camps, has gone on sale in Yugoslavia.

Turmoil in Punjab: Part 2

Gandhi's task is to win over student militants

With additional advanced arms flowing into India's troubled northern state of Punjab, hope for a solution to the Sikh campaign of violence now revolves round a young priest recently released from imprisonment. Michael Hamlyn reports from the Sikh holy city on the chances for peace.

Two hundred yards from the holiest shrine in the Sikh religion, the Golden Temple of Amritsar, past the sandbagged pickets of the Central Reserve Police and into the largely Hindu bazaar, is a *dharmshala*, a place of religious refuge.

In a room off its tall, elaborately decorated courtyard, Mrs Prakash Chand nurses an arm in heavy plaster, shattered by a Sikh assassin's bullet. She permits her long shirt to be pulled up to display her skinny breast pierced by another bullet.

"We thought we were so poor that no one would bother about us," says her husband, a Hindu farm labourer who grew a beard to appear less conspicuous in the mainly Sikh agricultural society.

But neither his poverty nor his beard kept seven turbaned killers at bay two weeks after all the Hindus in the village had been warned to leave.

Though he escaped, his two brothers, his sister-in-law and four neighbours died in the hall of fire from Kalashnikov rifles. A three-year-old child was among them.

"There is no government in the countryside. It is ruled by the terrorists," said Mr Satpal Sharma, another bearded Hindu refugee seeking shelter in the *dharmshala*.

Warnings to Hindus to leave his village were broadcast from loudspeakers in the local Sikh temple, but he took no notice until there were two encounters between a band of guerrillas and the force of Central Reserve Police. The guerrillas escaped each time, and Mr Sharma decided it was time to move.

"The terrorists do not con-

● We thought we were so poor that no one would bother about us ●

sider the security forces deployed by the Government any hindrance to their activities," he said.

The sentiment is echoed in the Golden Temple itself, where officials of the rebel organizations boldly meet the press, and plot their mayhem. "If we do not agree with the Government, we shall not allow that Government to work," claimed Giani Jagir Singh, spokesman for the Panthic Committee, the umbrella organization for three of the four or five killer bands.

But at the same time, the Indian Government of Mr Rajiv Gandhi is trying to make some approaches to the extremists to see whether some form of government - short of Khalistan, the separate and independent Sikh state that

the guerrillas are pursuing - can be re-established in Punjab.

The Government's hopes revolve on Bhai Jasbir Singh Rode, a 34-year-old Sikh priest who is the nephew of Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, the rebel martyr who died in the army assault on the Golden Temple in 1984.

Gurkha threat of more violence

Calcutta (Reuters) - Gurkhas fighting for autonomy in India threatened yesterday to renew their sometimes violent campaign because of police excesses. The Gurkha leader, Mr Subhas Ghising, said: "We will be forced to launch a massive and non-stop movement for a separate state if police raids and market excesses do not stop."

He has previously accused the ruling Communist Party in West Bengal of torturing and shooting his supporters.

Last year, the Gurkha National Liberation Front agreed to accept partial autonomy but negotiations became bogged down. Now Mr Ghising appears to be renewing his demand for a separate state.

Bhai Jasbir Singh (he is anxious to drop the surname Rode, which refers to his native village, and prefers to be known as Khalsa - "pure") was educated at Dardami Takal, the extremist's seminary formerly headed by his uncle (and whose staff still believed Sant Bhindranwale to be alive when I paid a visit at the weekend).

He went to lecture in the Gulf, and was thrown out of Britain when he tried to enter from Dubai in 1984. After being chased round the world to Manila, he was handed over by President Marcos to the Indians, who jailed him without ever bringing him to trial. He was released a few weeks ago as part of Mr Gandhi's peace drive.

The Panthic Committee promptly elected him high priest of the Akal Takht, Sikhdom's seat of both spiritual and temporal power and the highest religious position in the faith.

For the moment he is playing his cards extremely cautiously, trying to build a following among the Sikh youth, and moving to promote unity among the highly fissile extremist groups.

He spent last week travelling the state, prior to a meeting he has called for tomorrow at which the two divisions of the All-India Sikh Students' Federation - the principal engine of extremism - are expected to reunite.

"There will be no agreement

without the total involvement of the youth," he said, and he blames the "old leadership" for having betrayed the Sikh cause by compromising with the Government.

"Because they have betrayed as they have lost the support of the youth," he said. "The Government has, all along, encouraged these old leaders because they know the talks will ultimately fail."

"But my position is different. Before holding talks with the centre I will take the youth into confidence. That includes all the fighting forces. I am only a bridge over the river. I will bring the youth to the negotiating table."

But is there any possibility that the central Government will be able to offer anything that could satisfy Sikh aspirations at this stage?

According to a Sikh political scientist, Dr Gurnam Singh, professor at Guru Nanak Dev University here, it may be possible, though unlikely.

Dr Gurnam Singh believes that if "a special kind of status is given to the Sikhs within the broad Indian federal set-up, whereby the Sikh predominance in Punjab can be ensured" then a settlement is possible.

It would require that no outsider (that is, non-Sikh) be given a franchise or a right to purchase land, and that the Sikhs be assured of leadership to "preserve their culture, their religion, their language" in addition to the other Sikh claims.

It seems highly improbable that such status could be granted by the central Government, but it will require something similarly dramatic to turn the extremists away from

● There will be no agreement without the involvement of the youth ●

their pursuit of Khalistan.

Bhai Jasbir Singh is not mentioning Khalistan at the moment, but instead is calling for *paran azadi* (complete freedom) for the Sikhs. It remains to be seen how far he can unite the militants behind any proposals that will allow a diminution in the campaign of violence.

If the campaign does not diminish then there is the certain threat of an even more draconian regime under a state of emergency, legislation for which was signed into law last month. That, at least, would please the Hindus in the *dharmshala* and in the rest of the country. It would make electoral sense for Mr Gandhi, but it might not reduce the bloodshed.

Concluded

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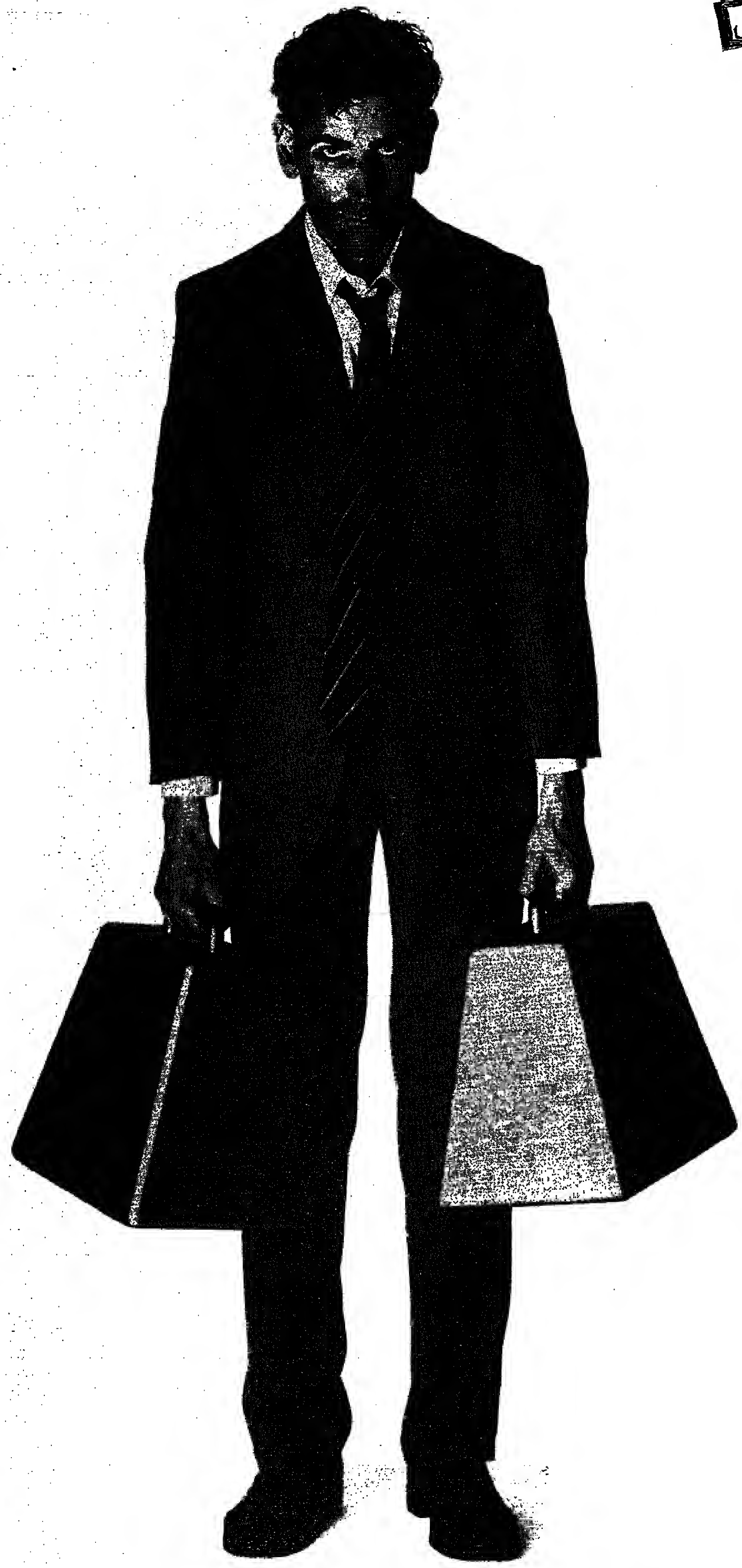
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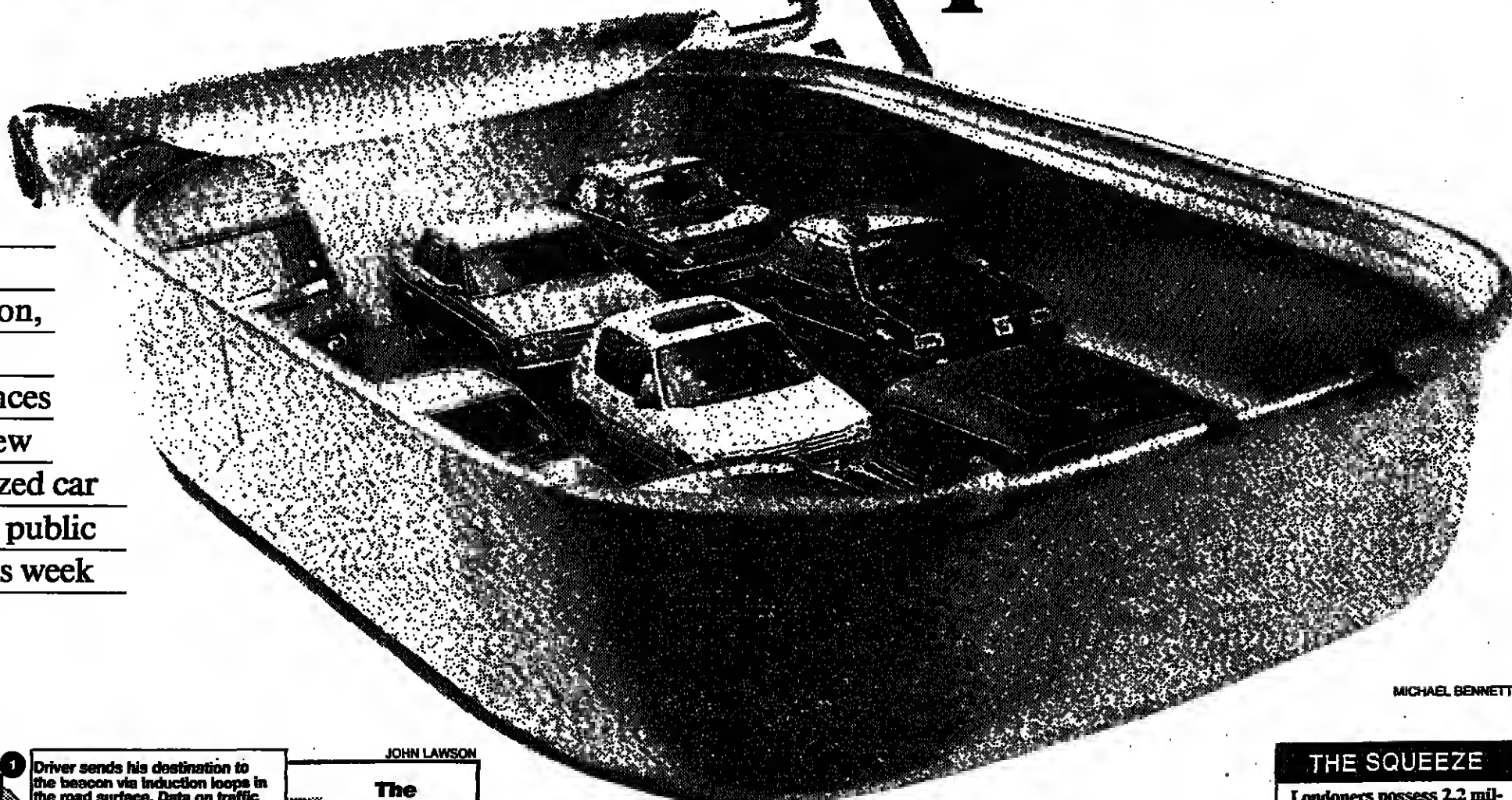
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HOW TO GET OUT OF A JAM

PART ONE

All indicators point to a worsening traffic crisis in the world's major cities. Opening a special investigation, William Greaves estimates the chances of Autoguide, a new British computerized car control system on public test in London this week



MICHAEL BENNETT

At 4.34pm on Monday December 7 last year, a lorry, a coach and a car collided at the western entrance to the Blackfriars underpass on the Thames embankment, which marks the southern boundary of central London. At about the same time, a bomb hoax closed part of Oxford Street, and a burst water main blocked Finchley Road to the north. By 7pm, when the rush hour is usually beginning to ease, an estimated 50,000 vehicles were stationary in a huge area bounded by Hampstead in the north, Wimbledon in the south and Hammersmith on the road to the west. The moment doom-watchers had predicted for years had come to a full stop.

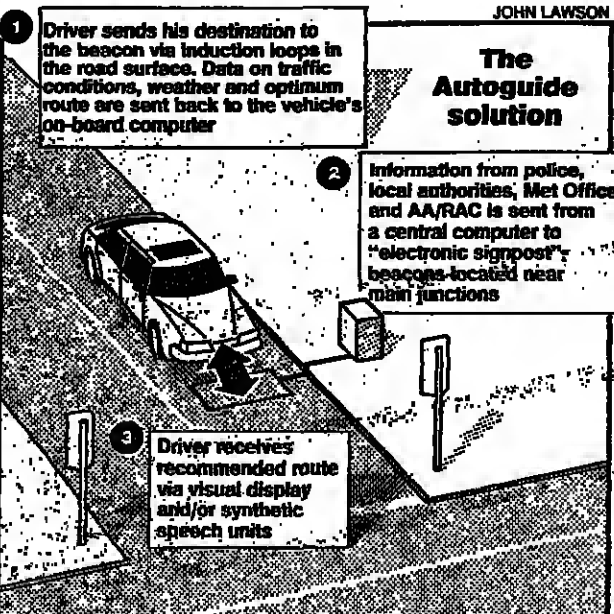
The statistics of traffic growth in London are alarming. Drivers will this year clock up 100 million more vehicle miles than in 1987. Peak-hour average speed, having declined from nearly 13mph to less than 12mph, is expected to drop to 9mph by the late 1990s. "Action is clearly needed, and fast," says the Department of Transport.

Its latest initiative, Autoguide, is a computerized system which will be able to buy, for about £200, the dashboard display is linked to a central computer that will

inform him on the approaches to each road junction which route should be taken — and it will even give him an estimated time of arrival for the journey. Longer-term hazards such as roadworks will already have been taken into account — unpredictable hazards, such as broken-down lorries, collisions or burst water mains, will be included almost instantly; the best diversion will pop up on the screen.

So, engineers of Autoguide and the scientists of the Transport and Road Research Laboratory in Crowthorne, Berkshire, that they have already had precisely coded an operational system, covering the whole of London, out to and including the M25. They estimate that a network of information-emitting beacons at 750 junctions, with the manufacture of dashboard units, will cost £73 million. On the laboratory's assumption that 370,000 vehicle owners will find the £200 investment worthwhile (but entirely financing the project), the collective benefit has been estimated at more than £100 million a year, mainly from saved journey distances and time.

The system is being developed by a consortium of British Telecom, British Leyland and the Department of Transport. It is being demonstrated at a public demonstration to be mounted this week. The Department of Transport



not be accused of picking an easy route. One Wednesday at 5pm, a lorry was stuck in traffic for three minutes, held up by lights. Two miles, 5.16, alongside Battersea power station over the river. Twenty yards of road works have created havoc, followed by pavement diggings. Totally stationary. Three miles. At

most 12mph coverage — in decent lanes. 5.23: just passing Chelsea, I serve parade. Passing for the right way. Absolutely motionless. Three minutes for three miles. 5.30: Court Station. Will we get to 4.5 miles in 20 minutes? Beginning to look doubtful. No 45th Street. Lane changes lanes. Traffic jam. Impasse. Afters, watching lights in East Court Square change four times with no progress. Blocked solid. 5.32: Newport Square. Little more to report in terms of miles — 4.6. Lorry on the left, shovelling cement on to the pavement. 5.35: filtered so to the A4, desperately trying to surge on to the inside lane. Traffic jammed solid. 5.40: Battersea. A lorry is stuck in traffic for three minutes, held up by lights. Two miles, 5.16, alongside Battersea power station over the river. Twenty yards of road works have created havoc, followed by pavement diggings. Totally stationary. Three miles. At

It reduces waiting-time at traffic lights by up to 30 per cent, and effectively provides a 10 per cent capacity boost on the roads it covers.

From the simple stable as a sophisticated computerized system called Mova, designed to operate at individual major junctions, rather than as part of a co-ordinated network. At Hanger Lane in West London, Mova is said to have reduced congestion by about 15 per cent, and some 20 other sites have been identified for future installation.

THE SQUEEZE

Londoners possess 2.2 million cars, and by the end of this year will own about 50,000 more. Drivers in the capital make 8 million car trips a day and cross into and out of the central area 1.6 million times. This year they will put in 9,630 million miles on the city's main roads alone.

The capital's social changes are also disturbing. In common with other British cities, the steady loss of population during the late 1960s and early 1970s has been reversed.

Not only are the numbers going up, so is the level of wealth. "People with higher incomes are on the increase," says Paul Prestwood-Smith, policy planner for Westminster City Council. This means we shall see more cars, more driving and more pressures on the roads.

The roads minister, Peter Bottomley, is also predicting a continuation of other social trends: "On the household side, the percentage of retired people with driving licences has risen in the last few years from 30 to 40 per cent, and will carry on doing so. And the percentage of women with licences has risen from 40 per cent in 1979 to 50 per cent now, and will go on rising until it reaches 75 per cent — the figure for men."

While big investment is planned for railways in the region — £952 million for Network South East in the next five years, and BR is to commission its £54 million Thameslink service between Luton and Gatwick next month — no comparable progress is planned for London's roads.

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WERE FLEETS AHEAD

NEWHAVEN-DIEPPE FOLKESTONE-BOULOGNE NEWHAVEN-DIEPPE DOVER-CALAIS

legislated restraint, and he cites the apparent success of the Singapore system, where by cars are permitted into the city centre only at peak hours if they are carrying at least two passengers.

Within the past month, Paul Channon, the Transport Secretary, has called for suburban car parks around the city outskirts, bigger parking fines, more wheel-clamping and a revamped rail and tube network financed by private industry as well as by the Government. "With the Channel Tunnel looming, it is vital we unjam the capital, and drastic measures are required," he said.

However, cynics believe that for as long as the growing crisis is handled independently by the Department of Transport, London Regional Transport, British Rail, the separate metropolitan boroughs and the police, a co-ordinated policy is little more than a pipe dream.

So high a premium is there now on cutting London traffic that schemes which once seemed most unlikely are getting close attention. Wlata Costain Ventures, a think tank subsidiary of the civil engineering giant, announced in January its notions of sinking an eight-lane road tunnel to follow the course of the Thames in one unbroken sweep between Chiswick and the Blackwall Tunnel, and building a second-tier of motorway over the M25, it was quite prepared for its brainchild to be exiled to the science fiction shelves.

"But the City is quite enthusiastic," Costain said. "And at least one major bank is taking the tunnel idea seriously."

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Chief Superintendent Peter Wilesworth, head of the Metropolitan Police traffic department, believes that London can be just about kept on the move by a management strategy of the sort that has been used in Tokyo, without a compulsory ban on private cars entering the city centre. This sort of problem tends to be self-regulating. When people find that they can no longer get from A to B by car within an acceptable time, that is when they voluntarily choose another way of travelling.

Wilesworth rates illegal parking as the principal day-to-day traffic impediment and clamping as one useful way of dealing with it. A recent survey showed that the number of fixed-penalty parking tickets issued in any area where wheel clamping was taking place had lowered appreciably.

The anti-car lobby, however, has it that the only way forward "on the streets of central London is a partial ban on the private motorist. Peter Lambert, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, is a known devotee of the policy of

stop-start run past the Houses of Parliament and a 40mph burst from Lambeth Bridge. One mile completed. 5.09: reach Chiswick after three-minute hold-up lights. Two miles, 5.16, alongside Battersea power station over the river. Twenty yards of road works have created havoc, followed by pavement diggings. Totally stationary. Three miles. At

HOW OTHER BRITISH CITIES COPE WITH RISING TRAFFIC

City	1967	1985	Estimate late 1990s
London	9.5	12.2	9
Birmingham	11.4	17.6	15-16
Leeds	7.4	14.8	12
Liverpool	10.4	12	11
Manchester	9.1	11.7	10
Newcastle	8.1	11.8	10
Glasgow	13.5	8.6	8

GLASGOW

Last year the average journey speed through Glasgow rose to 12mph, thanks to major improvements to the M8 motorway and the introduction of an extensive one-way system. Kerry Gill writes. However, William McAloon, director of roads for Strathclyde Regional Council, is pessimistic. He predicts that by 1990, speeds will be down to 8mph.

His reasons are the steady rise in traffic volume and the lack of any further major motorway improvements for at least another 11 years. Traffic is growing at 3 per cent each year in the city centre, with 400,000 vehicles arriving and leaving each day. Our salvation will have to be the completion of the ring road — but that will be 1996 at the earliest," he says.

The M8, which snakes from the south west of Glasgow north over the Kingston Bridge across the River Clyde and east towards Edinburgh, is only two sides of the necessary "ring road box" which, according to McAloon, is long overdue.

MANCHESTER

Greater Manchester lies at the hub of a network of motorways which were intended to make the city one of the most accessible in the country, Ian Smith writes. But they are plagued by the need for repairs and the county even boasts the Mousetrap of the motorway world, Britain's most protracted road improvement

scheme. Work to add an extra lane to each side of the two-lane stretches of Barton Bridge, on the M63, has been going on for 18 months and will continue for as long again. Recently announced roadworks will affect the M6, the M61, the M62 and the M56.

An AA spokesman says: "The main problem is the weight of traffic going into the city. It seems to be getting busier all the time and we get spells when there are tremendous snarl-ups for no apparent reason."

Superintendent Peter Madeley, police traffic manager for the city, says that by 1990 the projected average speed of city traffic will be 10mph.

BIRMINGHAM

Not for nothing did Birmingham become known as Car City, Craig Scron writes. Major road developments of the 1960s and 1970s gave priority to motorists in a city renowned for automobile manufacturing.

The key to easy driving is an intimate knowledge of the intricate inner and middle ring road systems, which have vastly improved traffic speed. It is estimated that more than 52,000 vehicles pass through

the middle ring road into the city centre during each morning rush hour. A series of underpasses on the inner ring speed them away.

Ironically, recession and growing unemployment helped speed traffic because fewer people were travelling to and from work at peak times. But one of the most significant

advances was the construction in the early 1970s of the Aston Expressway, in effect a two-mile-long, four-lane motorway stretching almost into the city centre from Spaghetti Junction.

Chief Superintendent Bob Snalley, head of traffic for West Midlands police, believes that Birmingham's traffic will begin to slow for two reasons: most road improvements will have been completed by the early 1990s, and more people are likely to drive to work as the recession ends.

Correction

The telephone number for Hotels in France, given wrongly on Saturday, is 01-937 7165.

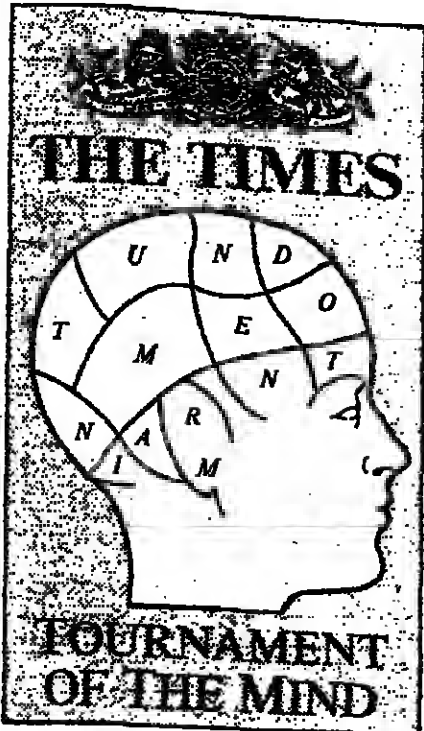
Loneliness is just one problem

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Tournament of the Mind



● Round Two of the individual final of *The Times* Tournament of the Mind for the 124 top-scoring entrants, one of whom will win £5,000 and become *The Times* Mind of the Year

● Even those who have not reached the finals can enjoy the challenge of these questions every day this week. In the event of a tie, further questions will be set until an outright winner is found

Mrs Victoria Black, of Sherwood in Nottinghamshire, freely admits to having sought a qualified second opinion on her way to the finals of *The Times* Tournament of the Mind — her husband is a doctor. At the end of each day, having taken on average two hours to complete the questions, she would go to him for corroboration. "He didn't always agree," she says, "but whenever he raised a query, it was always with good reason.

Mrs Black, who is 33, also points to two other factors which just might have helped her reach this stage of the tournament: first, she is a chemistry teacher at a local comprehensive school, and hence familiar with the business of problem-solving; and second, she is just finishing her maternity leave to look after her five-month-old daughter. "When I'd got the baby down I could concentrate my mind on the problems," she says.

"It often made quite a welcome change. There's no doubt that my maths grounding stood me in good stead. Now that I've got to the finals, I'd say that the questions which strike me as having got much harder are the general knowledge ones. They've definitely stepped up another gear. Oh yes, there was one other thing that I think helped me. I do *The Times* crossword every day."

INDIVIDUAL FINAL — ROUND TWO

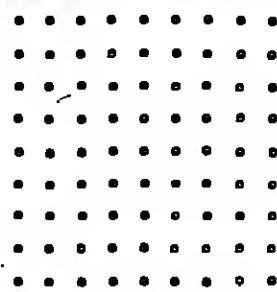
1 LOGIC

In the diagram you will see two planets in orbit around their sun, each moving clockwise. The outer planet takes 8 years to complete an orbit while the inner one takes two years. At the moment, the planets are in line with each other and their sun. Imagine that in this solar system, each year is exactly 365 days long and that it is now exactly midnight on December 31, 1899. By some freak, the months are exactly the same length in days as ours and they have the same names. Can you tell us when the planets will first form a 90° angle with their sun? For example, planet A could be at 12 o'clock and planet B at three o'clock:



4 MISCELLANEOUS

Here is a nine by nine array of dots. How many different but perfect squares of any size can be found in the illustration in such a way that each corner of each square lies on a dot?



2 VERBAL

The groups of letters which follow are jumbled words. You must unscramble the words and discover the most obvious one out.

TALONBA PODOLLE CHLDIC PACHAAL

3 MATHS

Replace the three question marks with three mathematical symbols to make the equation work:

$$((4\frac{1}{2} ? 17\frac{1}{2}) ? 4\frac{1}{2}) ? \frac{3}{4} = 17\frac{1}{2}$$

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

1. Name the male and female cities who stirred up the sea with a spear, creating islands from the drops.
2. Which artist created *Light-Space Modulators*?
3. Which yellow to reddish-brown material is a common source of the rare earths?
4. What type of socialism worked through industrial action and wished to substitute a federation of functional economic units for the state.
5. Which German author wrote the romantic fairytale *Der blonde Eckhart*?

NEW WORDS FOR OLD

Philip Howard

Horse sense

By Aarvak (the Norse horse that draws the sun's chariot driven by the maiden Sol) and Xanthos (Achilles' wonderful talking horse), your horse is a strange creature. This must be because man rode into history and civilization on its back. Wynkyn de Worde gave the 15 points of a good horse in 1496: *A good horse sholde have three proprietes of a man, three of a woman, three of a foxe, three of a hare, and three of an asse. Of a man, Bolde, prowde, and hardye.*

Of a woman, Fayre-breasted, faire of haire, and easy to move.

Of a foxe, A fair taylle, short eers, with a good trotte.

Of a hare, A grate eye, a dry head, a well rennyng.

Of an asse, A bygge chynn, a flat legges, and a good hooffe.

But we have it from the horse's mouth (looking at its incisors is a more accurate way of judging a horse's age than believing a horse coper) that it is

strange linguistically as well as equinely. We should not be surprised that the horse is a prolific sire of human proverbs and sayings, from the superiority of the grey mare to the equal virtue of a nod and a wink to a blind horse, and the three things that are

not to be trusted, a cow's horn, a dog's tooth, and a horse's hoof. For millenniums the horse was man's vehicle to power and status.

Nobody knows the origin of the Common Germanic word. It was originally neuter, like deer, sheep, and swine, and applicable to both male and female. It was first written down in English as *hors* in a Psalter of about 825 AD. In Anglo-Saxon the nominative singular and plural were identical, but the plural *horsas* appeared early in the 13th century. The original uninflected form survives, just about, in "horse soldiers" for cavalry. The Common Indo-European root word has diversified more widely than usual: Old British Runic *eh*, Old Saxon *ehu*, Old Norse *jör*, Gothic *aiwha*, Greek *hippos* as in Philip, Sanskrit *ayyas*, Lithuanian *arsva*, Old Irish *ech*, Welsh *ep*. In attributive use horse

often denotes coarseness, roughness, or large size, as in a horse laugh, horse leech, horse mackerel, horse mint, horse-radish, horseplay, and in the verb: "Stop horsing around this minute, boys; matron is coming". The horse chestnut is a puzzle. Explanations include the suggestion that it was used to cure horses of the cough and that when a leaf stalk is pulled off, it presents a miniature of a horse's hock and foot. I don't believe either derivation: but I have nothing better to offer.

There is similar insipidated fog about the origin of the horse latitudes, the belt of calm and light winds around 30° North and South. Some explain that these latitudes are called horse because they were generally fatal to horses and cattle being shipped to America. Others say that sailing ships were sometimes obliged to jettison their cargoes when becalmed in the horse latitudes because of shortage of water for the animals. A "Dead horse" was the term used by seamen to describe the period of work on board ship for which they had been paid in advance when signing on. They used to celebrate having worked off the dead horse by

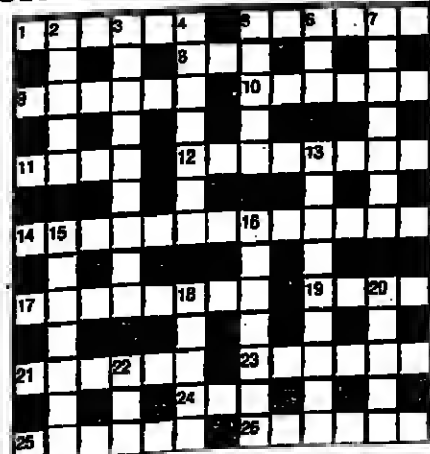
parading an effigy of a horse stuffed with straw around the decks to the song: "Old man, your horse must die." Nautical etymologists say that the proverb to flog a dead horse refers to "expecting vainly, to get extra work out of a ship's crew while they are working off the dead horse. These ingenious ancient mariners connect the horse latitudes with this custom. In the older days of sail it took about two months out of England to win clear of the horse latitudes, and that was where the dead horse of straw was hoisted to the yardarm and cut adrift to fall into the sea. Others derive the horse latitudes from the Spanish *El Golfo de las Yeguas*, the Mares' Sea, because of its boisterous nature in contradiction with the trade wind zone, *El Golfo de las Damas*. In my opinion you can tell all such derivations to the horse marines.



CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1537

ACROSS

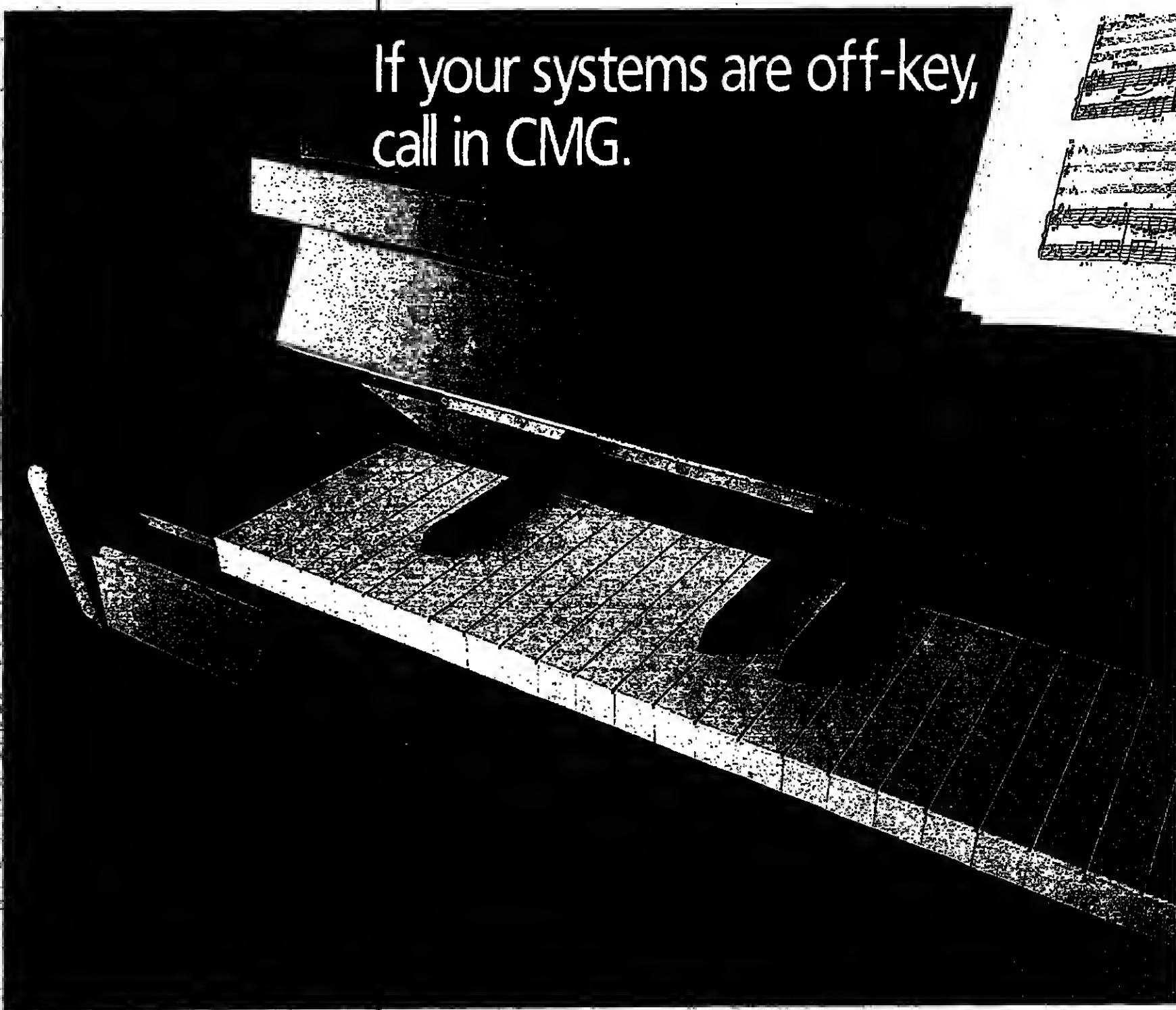
- 1 Rip in pieces (4,2)
- 5 Bad-tempered (6)
- 8 Make mistake (3)
- 9 Biblical punisher (6)
- 10 Brief (6)
- 11 Threesome (4)
- 12 Continuous (8)
- 14 Swaggering (1,3)
- 17 Put up with (8)
- 19 Top-notch people (1,1,2)
- 21 Ruined (6)
- 23 Jonah (6)
- 24 Morale (3)
- 25 Danish moneys (6)
- 26 Extraordinary beauty (6)



- 3 Turned up (nose) (9)
- 4 Trouble (7)
- 5 Leaf fragment (5)
- 6 Also (3)
- 7 In combination (7)
- 13 Unaware (9)
- 15 Huge lie (7)
- 16 "The Seagull" playwright (7)
- 18 Change (5)
- 20 Film picture (5)
- 22 Homiety (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1536

- ACROSS: 1 Scorer 5 Piss 8 Globe 9 License 11 Lake Eric 12 Sub 15 Clingfilm 18 Lull 19 Stuffing 22 Dauphin 23 Felon 24 Team 25 Shrewd
- DOWN: 2 Crook 3 Rue 4 Rolling Stones 5 Pick 6 Sanctum 7 Agile 10 Elza 12 Evil 14 Tuff 15 Culture 16 Clad 17 Agony 20 In-saw 21 Sham 23 For



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TIMES DIARY

RICHARD COBB

Why do people go on so about the poor old Masons, about them being in the police and so on? It is a strange twist of history, nearly 50 years after they were proscribed by Vichy's anti-Masonic and anti-Jewish legislation of 1940. Then it was the German Nazis, the French *maurassiens* and the French Catholic hierarchy who were in the habit of referring darkly to a Judaeo-Masonic conspiracy.

My grandfather was a Mason, quite high up I think in the Colchester Lodge. I have his Masonic medals and triangular sashes. He was an excellent man, staunchly Liberal, very charitable, and anything but a conspirator. I have always thought of Masons as harmless people who make a point of looking after their own: good Masonic schools and hospitals. Now, for some reason, it has become fashionable to vilify these victims of fascism and clericalism of the 1930s and 1940s. I hope someone important stands up for them. No one did in France in the summer of 1940.

I am not interested in the weather, provided it is not hot and sunny. At this time of year I watch with dread the coming of spring, because that brings nearer the threat of summer and the horrible months of July and August (if only they could be abolished and the calendar reduced to 10 months!).

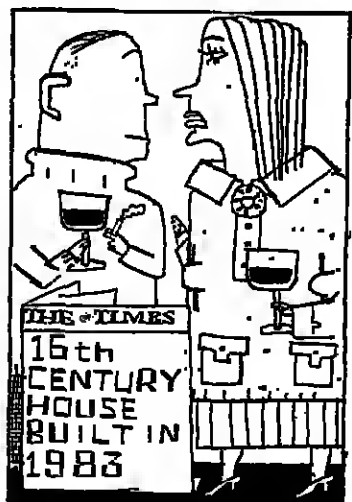
Next year, up and down the country, the bicentenary of the French Revolution will be celebrated — if that is the right word; there will at least, I think, be plenty of food and drink to help it down. There are to be conferences in Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Manchester and Birmingham, though I don't think Cambridge has anything in mind. Most of these conferences are jumping the gun, being held in March or April, in order to leave the field clear for the *grande finale*, fireworks and all, in Paris on July 14. The chances are that there will be there but hardly anyone around in the French capital to celebrate it. The French, Parisians included, are not easily disturbed in their holiday habits.

Why should we be celebrating the bicentenary of someone else's revolution? A simple answer would be that there is quite a lot of money in it and that it would be both foolish and ungrateful not to accept inducements so readily provided. But there is more to it than mere *reconnaissance du ventre*, though I for one feel that that is a very powerful motivation. If you are asked to a party, accept. Eating and drinking have a universal appeal and easily overcome any ideological divisions. There will be books in it, too, as a more solid dessert to follow the pleasures of the feast itself. But, for England at least, there is indeed something to celebrate.

Faced with what was happening in Paris and in many garrison towns in northern France in June-July 1789, the British government of the day rejoiced. As one elite regiment after another mutinied, often after their officers had been dispersed and lynched, French military power seemed to be disintegrating. Pitt's very sensible reaction was to sit aside while France tore itself apart. Anything that weakened France militarily could only be to our advantage.

Perhaps Pitt's university should be joining in, too. Christ's College would be the place to hold it.

BARRY FANTONI



'Must have used our plumber'

I was in Paris on July 14, 1939, for the 150th anniversary of the French Revolution: *le cent-cinquantième*, a bit of a mouthful, and which soon went rather badly wrong. I stood on the Quai du Louvre and watched the huge military parade go thundering past. Eormous black tanks, each marked on its turret with hearts, spades, clubs or diamonds (a Tundridge Wells touch, I thought, and one that induced *le Canard* to comment that "France had put all her cards on the table") made the whole road shake. I don't know where they were nine months later.

What did come out of the 150th was Jean Renoir's wonderful film about the march of the Marseillais up to Paris, and Georges Lefebvre's beautifully concise *Quatre Vingts*, a book that was to be one of the first victims of the Vichy government, which ordered its withdrawal in July 1940.

At a fairly recent *bi-centenaire*, that of the Edict of Fontainebleau, better known as the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, in 1685, I was invited to a splendid lunch party at the Maison Française d'Oxford given in honour of the Huguenot City of Great Britain — those of the Channel Islands, Canada and the USA were also represented. At the beginning of the lunch we were assured by our kind host that all the wine, both red and white, that was to be served to us would be *du vin protestant*. I think we were all mightily protected by an assurance that offered so happy a combination of conviction and pleasure.

What sort of wine should be drunk over here next March and April? In 1795 the former terrorists became known as *bayouers de sang*. They had in fact never been anything of the sort. They had not been that bloodthirsty. They had drunk wine, much of it of poor quality: vin de Paris, Suresnes, Clamart, Choisy. There is no need to imitate them next year. Wine is apolitical, indeed the best form of *cohabitation*. As for food, for an entrée I would suggest a *lête de veau*, as served at those annual dinners held by staunch Republicans, on January 21, to celebrate the execution of Louis XVI. Or should that dish wait till 1993?

The author was formerly Professor of Modern History at Oxford University.

The possible use of the SAS, one of the world's most efficient counter-terrorist organizations, to storm the hijacked Kuwait Airways jet has been carefully weighed in Whitehall since the plane landed at Larnaca airport on Friday — though they would be sent in only at the specific request of both the Kuwaiti and Cyprus governments.

From the start it was hoped that exhaustion might lead the hijackers to accept a negotiated solution which contained no Kuwait concessions on key issues. But contingency plans have been drawn up on the assumption that further killings would necessitate the use of force.

After the first cold-blooded killing on Saturday, the chances grew that Kuwait and Cyprus would seek British help. With sovereign military bases in Cyprus, Britain could send men and equipment to the island unopposed. Cyprus is a Commonwealth country and Britain has a close relationship with Kuwait. So, in the event of a request for help, the British government could reasonably be expected to say "yes".

It became clear yesterday that Mrs Thatcher decided early on that she would not refuse if a request came from both governments. But it cannot have been

Andrew McEwen on the chances of an SAS rescue attack at Larnaca

To storm or not to storm?

An easy decision. British intervention could cost the lives of Terry Waite and John McCarthy, the British hostages held in Beirut by groups believed to be sympathetic to the hijackers' aims. Britain could increasingly be portrayed as hostile to the spread of Shia extremism in the Middle East. Critics at home could argue that it would be an unwarranted use of military muscle, given that no direct British interest has been at stake since the British passengers were released on Thursday, and would expose British aircraft and interests to attack.

Mrs Thatcher will have taken all these factors into account, but they will have been outweighed by the same consideration that led her to allow President Reagan to use US airbases in Britain for the bombing of Tripoli two years ago: those who take a firm line with terrorists and their sponsors may pay a short-term price (two British

hostages were murdered in Lebanon immediately after the Libya bombing), but will be treated with greater respect in future.

The British public has always supported her when she took decisions that other countries interpreted as aggressive; she has established that point that there has been so little public agitation to do a deal with Iran and Syria after the murder of Yvonne Fletcher in 1984 and the break with Syria in 1986 after Nezar Hindawi's attempt to blow up an El Al airliner at Heathrow.

More than any other Western leader, Mrs Thatcher has persuaded her own voters that it pays to be tough. She showed herself willing to gamble on that recommitment last month when the SAS shot dead three IRA terrorists before they could plant a car bomb in Gibraltar.

She views the al-Sabah ruling family of Kuwait as a kindred spirit for its refusal to make concessions, in spite of a similar

hijacking in 1984, a car-bomb attempt on the Emir's life in 1985 and a series of industrial sabotage operations. As Mrs Thatcher over tires of saying every concession to terrorism encourages further attacks. It is because she has established that point that there has been so little public agitation to do a deal with Iran and Syria after the murder of Yvonne Fletcher in 1984 and the break with Syria in 1986 after Nezar Hindawi's attempt to blow up an El Al airliner at Heathrow.

One might wonder why Mr George Vassiliou, the new president of Cyprus, elected partly with communist support, should turn to Britain. The Greek Cypriots are, after all, noted for military ruthlessness and might

be expected to storm the plane themselves. But a small country like Cyprus could not be expected to maintain a force as specialized as the SAS.

The use of troops not specifically trained for the task can lead to a bloodbath. This was shown in 1985 when an Egyptian attack on a hijacked aircraft at Malta left 60 dead and, a year later, when Pakistani special forces were too late to prevent 16 people being killed and 78 injured aboard a Pan American 747 at Karachi airport.

If a foreign unit is used at Larnaca, it has to be the SAS. Israeli troops match their ruthless efficiency, but Kuwait could never seek their help. The US anti-terrorist Delta forces are also highly trained but neither Kuwait nor Cyprus would wish to involve a superpower. West Germany's GSG/9 has directly relevant experience, but Bonn would be unlikely to welcome a request for help.

The most celebrated SAS rescue came in May 1980, when 20 men burst into the Iranian embassy in London after terrorists had shot dead two hostages. They rescued 19 other hostages and killed four of the gunmen.

But they have been involved in storming only one aircraft. That was in October 1977 when two SAS men helped GSG/9 to rescue 86 hostages on board a hijacked Lufthansa jet at Mogadishu, in Somalia.

The GSG/9 squad blasted open the aircraft's doors with dynamite and hurled six stun grenades, supplied by the SAS, into the cabin. The grenades momentarily immobilized the hijackers without seriously harming the passengers, and the Germans opened fire, killing one terrorist instantly, mortally wounding two and seriously wounding a fourth. Three members of the Basler-Heimhof gang committed suicide in their cells in West Germany on hearing the news.

A five-man SAS group was sent to RAF Akrotiri to stand by after the hijacking of a TWA jet from Athens to Beirut in June 1985, but was not used.

After the murder of a second hostage at Larnaca, the SAS could have a rescue operation all their own.

T.E. Utley

Giving the IRA the initiative

There are (such is the message I am bidden to bring back from Ulster where I have just spent a week) the stirrings of a new political initiative in that province. I am bound to say that the message does not instill in me the same enthusiasm as those who have grown old in the business of analysing Ulster's ills.

How many political initiatives have we lived through! What is more, all of them have been "new". Most of them, it is true, have been variants on a single theme — the obstinate wish of the British government so to reform the political attitudes of Ulster men as to make possible the sort of settlement, based on compromise and good sense, which, so the Government believes, would have been achieved long ago if the province were only inhabited by Englishmen.

The details of the proposed settlement do not vary much from initiative to initiative (though I did go a bit further in the same direction). There should be a devolved government and parliament in the six counties; Unionists must make the supreme sacrifice of agreeing to share the executive power with nationalists and of being willing to accept some sort of institutional arrangement for close co-operation with the Republic.

In return, nationalists must make the supreme sacrifice of giving absolutely unreserved support to the security forces and of abandoning all links, however tenuous and sporadic, with republican terrorists. By these means, the IRA will be isolated, alienated from its American sponsors and unequivocally condemned in the court of world opinion.

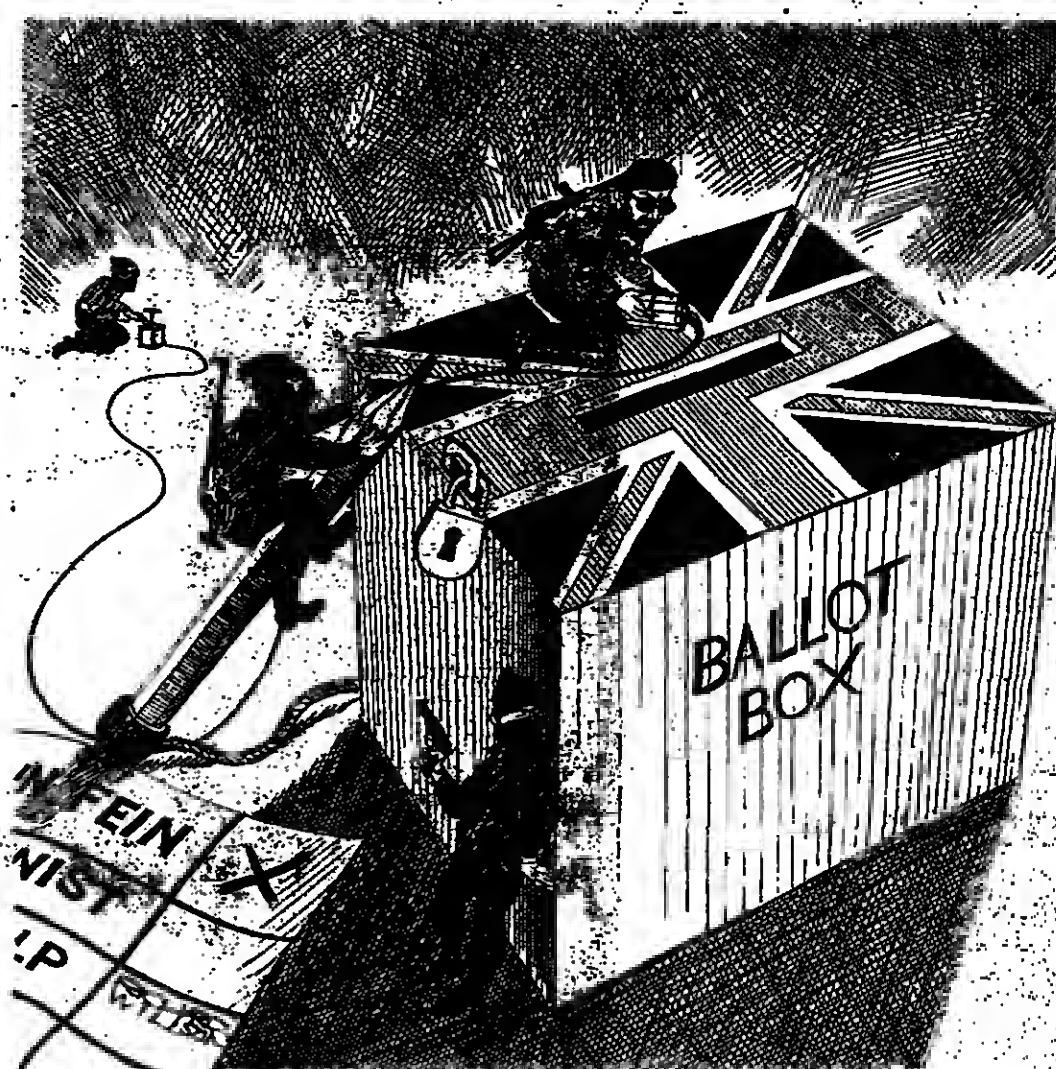
As for the differences between these various government initiatives, they have been semantic. Sometimes devolution has been called "rolling devolution", sometimes "power sharing", sometimes "responsibility sharing". Let no one doubt, however, that among the Ulster politicians, who are so often accused

of being rigid, there has ever been any position so stubbornly entrenched as that occupied by successive British governments. Even the Prime Minister, most uncharacteristically, has never seemed to have a single original thought about Ulster. Civil servants in other departments of state get their ears boxed when they confront her with hallowed clichés, the Northern Ireland Office seems to be exempt from this treatment. It, by contrast, is allowed to submerge her constantly under an avalanche of banality.

But wait! I am told by those who are enthusiastic for it that this current initiative, now painfully stirring into life, is really new in one immensely significant respect: it springs not from Whitehall but from the people of Ulster themselves. They are tired of the fight; they are tired of their established political leaders; a new generation is arising which wants a genuinely new initiative.

There are indeed several bodies in the province which are working to that end. A notable example is The Campaign for a Devolved Parliament, which has been lobbying me. Its theory runs thus: the nationalists must now be asked to give up the Anglo-Irish Agreement in its present form because it is fundamentally unacceptable to all brands of Unionists. In return for this supreme sacrifice, the Unionists must admit the other side to a permanent share to executive government, and it is whispered, not even exclude Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, from such participation, provided, of course, that Sinn Fein says it proposes to use the ballot box rather than the bullet in future.

It is, moreover, whispered that one of the merits of this arrangement would be that the IRA might offer a truce. Well, if it suited the IRA, so it would. What is new about the new initiative, is that it does not concentrate simply on mobilizing the support of good peaceable middle-class people



(though there are plenty of them involved in it). But that it tries to get together what have hitherto been bad men.

Whoever said that the Irish have "long memories"? The sad truth is that there is nothing new about this kind of initiative either. It was very much the theme of Merlyn Rees's tenure of the Northern Ireland office. In his case it actually yielded two truces for the IRA — one from December 1974 to January 1975, the other from February 1975 to April 1975. They were disastrous in their consequences. They involved conceding to the IRA

something approaching belligerent status, and even setting up arrangements for co-operation between the UK army and the IRA in the enforcement of the armistices.

I believe that if the campaign for a devolved parliament were to succeed in all its immediate objectives, the following consequences would ensue: Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, would be given a unique opportunity to disrupt the political life of the province to the interest of the IRA. I believe that a "strong devolved parliament" in Ulster, particularly a par-

liament which, as the campaign seems to want, would have substantial responsibility for security, would, in the first instance encourage all those in Britain who are looking for opportunities to get Ulster off their backs. Later on, of course, the British would get tired of subsidizing a place which they did not control and simply being kept in reserve to provide military power to be called in whenever things over there got too much out of hand. In the end, the result would probably be an independent Ulster governed by an exasperated Prot-

estant community, and no paper constitutional guarantees would suffice to protect the minority.

No! The British government must decide whether it wants to govern Ulster or to abandon Ulster. By all means let it hold plebiscites continually (the thing that it seems particularly disinclined to do) in order to test the wishes of the people, but so long as its mandate survives it must discharge it. By all means let it attempt to revive local government in the province, but local government concerned with sewers not principles.

It breaks my heart to denounce this well-intentioned initiative, whose supporters include quite a number of my best friends. There is for example my dear friend Peter McLachlan: He is the son of a Presbyterian clergyman, and he is a man of unspeakable honour, unfathomable generosity, high intellect and infinite, jolly optimism. He has been behind almost every initiative. Once he became a "peace woman", when "peace women" were supposed to be the thing. Militant Protestants throw rotten eggs at him and kick him; but, come the next initiative, there he is in the forefront bearing Christian benevolence and singing hymns. It is a pain, but a duty, to say that I hope that his latest endeavour will fail, for, if it were to succeed, evil men would take advantage of him.

By contrast, I had the pleasure of travelling on an aeroplane with Ian Paisley with whom I have never had a conversation since I had the cheek to contest his constituency in February 1974. He told one of our travelling companions that he and I had been so mutually friendly that it was hard to believe that we were political opponents. That was not my precise impression at the time, but I am glad that he and I am resolved to accept it retrospectively. Certainly, he will ever tolerate this latest kind of initiative nonsense, and I shall be entirely behind him, as indeed I was, in another sense, in the 1974 poll.

Commentary • TONY BLAIR

Climate of violence

Gary was walking home around midnight after an evening out in Spenny Moor, Co Durham. He never saw his attackers clearly. They jumped on him from behind, drove to his face with billiard cues and left him bloody and unconscious. The object of the crime was not mercenary: no money was taken. It was an initiation rite carried out by youths to prove their fitness for membership of a local gang.

In another village only a few miles away, a different gang forced a car, driven by an elderly couple, to stop and smashed its windows and bonnet.

A week ago two gangs met at Ferryhill Working Men's Club. They wrecked the concert hall and sporadic fighting then broke out around the village. A dozen people were taken to hospital. The concert hall is now closed, losing the club thousands of pounds in revenue and spoiling a good evening out for the law-abiding majority.

These events are significant, not because they are exceptional, but because they are unexceptional. It becomes increasingly plain that organized gang violence is to be found in many towns and villages in the area and there is every reason to suppose it is replicated in most parts of the country.

It is also, both in its nature and extent, a new phenomenon. The gangs have names — The Casual Forces, "The New Breed" etc — elaborate codes of conduct and they are well organized. (One Darlington gang even has a "contingency fund" to pay legal expenses of members charged by the police).

This is more than mere boogymen. Indeed, in a wider context, the term "football hool-

iganism" is misleading. It is nothing to do with football or football supporters. The match is just the venue chosen for the disorder. But unreported, similar scenes occur in town centres each Friday and Saturday night up and down the country.

Neither is the word "hooligan" appropriate. It suggests random rowdiness — young men with too much beer and too little brain. This violence is done with premeditated malice and intent.

Of course, gang violence has been a feature of society since time immemorial. But it has tended to be confined to the big cities. Elsewhere violence has traditionally been after the pubs have closed, between rival groups of youths out to give each other "a good hiding", as an old regular in the working men's club explained. But when asked whether he and his friends would search out an old pensioner and beat him up, he looked outraged. "We weren't bloody sick."

This new lawlessness cannot be blamed in deprivation of a material sort. Many of the youths involved are still at school or employed and, in any case, unemployment usually acts as a depressant turning a person inward, not as a stimulus to group activity.

Nor will it be remedied only by stiffer penalties, though some sentences for violent offences seem absurdly light. The main difficulty is catching and identifying the criminals, not in sentencing them.

In any event, that deals only with the symptoms. To perceive the underlying causes for this violence is more exacting and more troubling in its message. But it surely has something to do

with the decline in the notion of "community", of the idea that we owe obligations to our neighbours and our society as well as ourselves. It is instructive that the police, the representatives of law enforcement in the community, are often the victims of violence. The days when the arrival of even one policeman would break up a fight are long gone.

The members of the gangs, devoid of the discipline that comes from recognizing that the value of oneself is in some way related to the value given to others, prove their "worth", that they are "somebody", by inflicting fear upon someone else. It is a profound and corrosive form of alienation.

But none of us should escape responsibility. For we, collectively, determine the values of our society. When a sense of community is strong, that adds its own special pressure against anti-social behaviour. Instead, we have learnt to tolerate what should not be tolerated. A victim can be assaulted violently in a public place and ignored by others present.

We are living in a society where increasingly the term is itself becoming meaningless, where social responsibility and the duties that come with it are seen simply as a drag anchor on our private pleasure.

For the better off, their wealth may increase, but they will pay an ever larger price for their security from the world outside. The victims — the young, the poor and the elderly — will be those that cannot or will not, hide away. This is Britain 1988 style and it is time we woke up to it.

The author is Labour MP for Sedgfield.

SCIENCE REPORT

Out in force

The two-year search for a new force akin to gravity has just been given a new and complicating twist by four researchers at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, New Mexico. Writing in the US journal *Physical Review Letters*, they give reasons for believing that there are two new forces to be found.

The search for a new force was set off in 1986 by a report that inconsistencies in data on the gravitational attraction between different materials, originally gathered in the 1920s, could be reconciled if there were a previously unrecognized force between separate pieces of matter (see Science Report, February 22).

This "fifth" force — so called in acknowledgement of the four known forces (gravity, electromagnetism and two nuclear forces) — is supposed to act between all material objects, as gravity does.

At the outset, the fifth force was estimated to differ from gravity in repelling rather than attracting pairs of material objects and in declining in strength more rapidly with increasing distance than Newton's prescription requires.

Especially intriguing was the evidence that the strength of the force depends on the chemical composition of the materials concerned because their atomic nuclei are differently constituted.

The excitement of the search was dampened somewhat last year by reports of two careful experiments designed to measure the new



force directly. One, with an apparatus suspended on the face of the Palisades cliff, on the west bank of the Hudson River opposite Manhattan, gave a positive result. But the other, near a hillside at Seattle, Washington, was taken to imply that there is no fifth force.

The Los Alamos team — Mark Ander, T. Goldman, Richard Hughes and Michael Nieto — urge researchers not to give up the search. Their belief in two new forces is based on their expectation of what the theory of matter will be like when there has been some success in welding together Einstein's theory of gravitation and the quantum theory.

They argue that each of the two new forces would separately imply a correction to Newton's gravity on a distance-scale of tens of miles,

but that the two corrections would normally cancel each other out on a much smaller distance scale, perhaps between 100 and 1,000 yards.

One inference from this argument is that neither of the two experiments should have given a positive result. Anders says the Palisades' positive measurement may have been the result of a layer of dense igneous rock at its base.

Although the search for a fifth force may seem one of the esoteric pursuits that give science a bad name, success would help to resolve two important issues.

First, there is a long-standing discrepancy between geophysical measurements of gravitational attraction (in minutesh for example) and those made in the laboratory, with serious practical consequences. Second, the nature of a fifth (or sixth) force could help to distinguish between the many theories of matter now proliferating.

Two sets of measurements may soon tell whether the new forces exist. One is an attempt to measure the downward pull of the Earth's gravity in the 7,000ft borehole drilled in the Greenland icecap.

The other is a plan at the European high-energy physics laboratory (CERN) at Geneva to measure the gravitational pull on the particle of matter called the anti-proton, for which the two forces described by Anders and his colleagues should not cancel.

JOHN MADDIX

COURT AND SOCIAL

Warming to the vision of winged wellies and rag dolls

By Philip Howard, Literary Editor

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE April 11: The Duke of Edinburgh, Trustee of the Council, attended a Council Meeting and Luncheon at St George's House, Windsor Castle.

Olympic Association Cambridgeshire Appeal Council. Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire (Mr Michael Bevan).

The classics are the roots of Western civilization. Europeans with no knowledge of their Greek and Roman roots are strangers in their own culture.

Andrea Pisano's first eviator, one of a series of reliefs from the Campanile in Florence, anticipated the Renaissance spirit by a century.

THE THYSSEN MASTERPIECES



Detail from 'Nativity with the Young Saint John the Baptist, by Fra Bartolommeo (1472-1517): Renaissance man believed that Christ and John the Baptist first met as children (and not, as the Gospels suggest, at Christ's baptism) and here we have an idealized picture of that meeting.

The author of the exhibition catalogue, Mr David Ekslerdjan, points out that the painter, who became a friar, had a profound effect on his contemporary, Raphael.

Northern Ireland gallantry awards

The Army CBE (Military): Colonel John Donald Drummond, Staff (late The Royal Highland Fusiliers [Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Argyshire Regiment]; Brigadier Ian Lennox Freer, Staff (late The Staffordshire Regiment [The Prince of Wales's]).

The Queen's Gallantry Medal (Military): Staff Sergeant James Joseph McKeown, Royal Ulster Constabulary; Staff Sergeant William Jeffrey Gunn, The Queen's Own Lancers; Staff Sergeant Christopher Jones, The Queen's Own Lancers; Staff Sergeant Neil Thomas, Royal Corps of Signals.

OBITUARY

MR TIMOTHY WALKER Saving endangered species



Timothy Walker with a rare Grevy's Zebra

Mr Timothy Walker, chairman of the World Wildlife Fund UK, died yesterday at the age of 46. He had been suffering from cancer for some time.

Walker was a man of immense enthusiasm and ability; no-one, however sceptical of the outset, about the environment and conservation matters could come away from a conversation with him, unmoved, as to the pressing need for action.

He is survived by his widow, Rosemary, two stepsons and two stepdaughters, and by the son of a former marriage.

Forthcoming marriages

Captain R.A.P. Cary and Miss C.R.L.E. Burgess. The engagement is announced between Richard Cary, 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, youngest son of the late Sir Michael Cary and of Lady Cary, of Huntwood House, Harpsden, Henley-on-Thames, and Caroline, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs Denis L. Estrange Burgess, of Clarendon, Somerset Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Church news

Appointments The Rev Richard Dent, Vicar, Highways, with Sevenhampton, Wilton, Gloucestershire, to be Vicar, Oxford Team Vicar, from June 1, 1988.

Luncheons

Anglo-Somali Society The Marquess of Ailes, Patron and Chairman of the Anglo-Somali Society, gave a luncheon at the Consul Club, London, yesterday, in honour of Mr Jeremy Varcoe, HM Ambassador to Somalia. Mr C.J. Martin, president, attended.

BISHOP ANTHONY HITCHEN

The Right Rev Anthony Hitchen, a Roman Catholic auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Liverpool since 1979, was found dead at his home on April 10. His life was one of dedicated service to many good causes. He was 57.

Ushaw and was ordained in 1955. After curacies in three Liverpool parishes, he was appointed administrator of St Mary's, Highfield Street, in 1969. In keeping with a region which has a pronounced ecumenical tradition, he helped to set up, with Canon Donald Gray, his Church of England 'opposite number', the city centre ecumenical team which, in 1978, welcomed the Queen.

In 1981 he was appointed chairman of CAFOD, the Catholic development and relief agency, and took an active interest in its work. He inspected projects in India, the Philippines, and in Ethiopia during the height of the famine there; and he had not long returned from a three-week visit to Brazil when he died. He also made a point of visiting Liverpool priests serving in these parts.

BROOK BENTON

Brook Benton, the American pop singer whose hits included "So Many Ways", "The Ball Weevil Song" and "Frankie and Johnny", died on April 9 in hospital in New York. He was 56.

Peay, at Camden, South Carolina on September 19, 1931. He served the conventional apprenticeship with various gospel quartets before forming a partnership with the songwriter Clyde Otis and signing to Mercury Records in 1959.

After 1963, however, the hits dried up. Unlike such contemporaries as Sam Cooke and Jackie Wilson, he failed to hold on to the teenage constituency; nor, seemingly, could he develop his appeal to an adult audience, which might have accepted him as a younger Billy Eckstine.

MR A. G. BRIGHTON

Mr A. G. (Peter) Brighton, who died on April 9, at the age of 87, was Curator of the Sedgwick Geological Museum, in Cambridge, from 1931 to 1968, and played a decisive role in its development.

work to bring this vast mass of material to order. Inevitably, it meant the sacrifice of his own research, but it was largely owing to his careful and patient organization that the Department of Geology at Cambridge was able to consolidate its high reputation for teaching and research in palaeontology and came to occupy an unrivalled position in that field.

He was a sound lawyer, a respected judge, and a kind and generous host. He was a good shot. He was an extremely loyal man — one "with whom to go tiger shooting".

Appointments in the Forces

The Army Brigadier M. J. Wilkes to be Commander 3rd Armoured Division in the rank of Major-General in June, in succession to Major-General C.E. W. Jones.

St Godric's College

St Godric's College welcomes former students and their partners to the 1988 May Ball on Saturday, May 21, at the Huntington Club, Ranelagh Gardens, SW6. Tickets are £24 each and can be obtained from the Ball Secretary, 2 Arkwright Road, London, NW3 6AD. Telephone: 01-435 9831.

ASTHMA Appeal 1988

Fighting for your next breath can be terrifying - please help to conquer asthma. This distressing, disabling, life-threatening disease afflicts over 2 million people in U.K. Over 2,000 people die each year. 1 in 10 children suffer. Asthma can strike at any age. Asthma is increasing - asthma deaths are increasing.

Resignations and retirements

The Rev Richard Dent, Vicar, Highways, with Sevenhampton, Wilton, Gloucestershire, to be Vicar, Oxford Team Vicar, from June 1, 1988.

Marine Society

The 216th Annual Court of the Marine Society will be held at 3pm on Thursday, May 12, 1988, at Ironmongers' Hall, Barbican, when Captain Sir Miles Wingate, Deputy Master, Trinity House, London, will give the address.

Appointments

The following appointments have been announced, to date from January 1, 1989: Mr Justice Allott to be a Presiding Judge on the South Eastern Circuit, in succession to Mr Justice Farquharson.



Lord Jenkins of Hillhead. Other appointments include: Mr M. Elliot to be Ambassador to Israel, in succession to Mr C. W. Squire, who will be retiring from the Diplomatic Service.

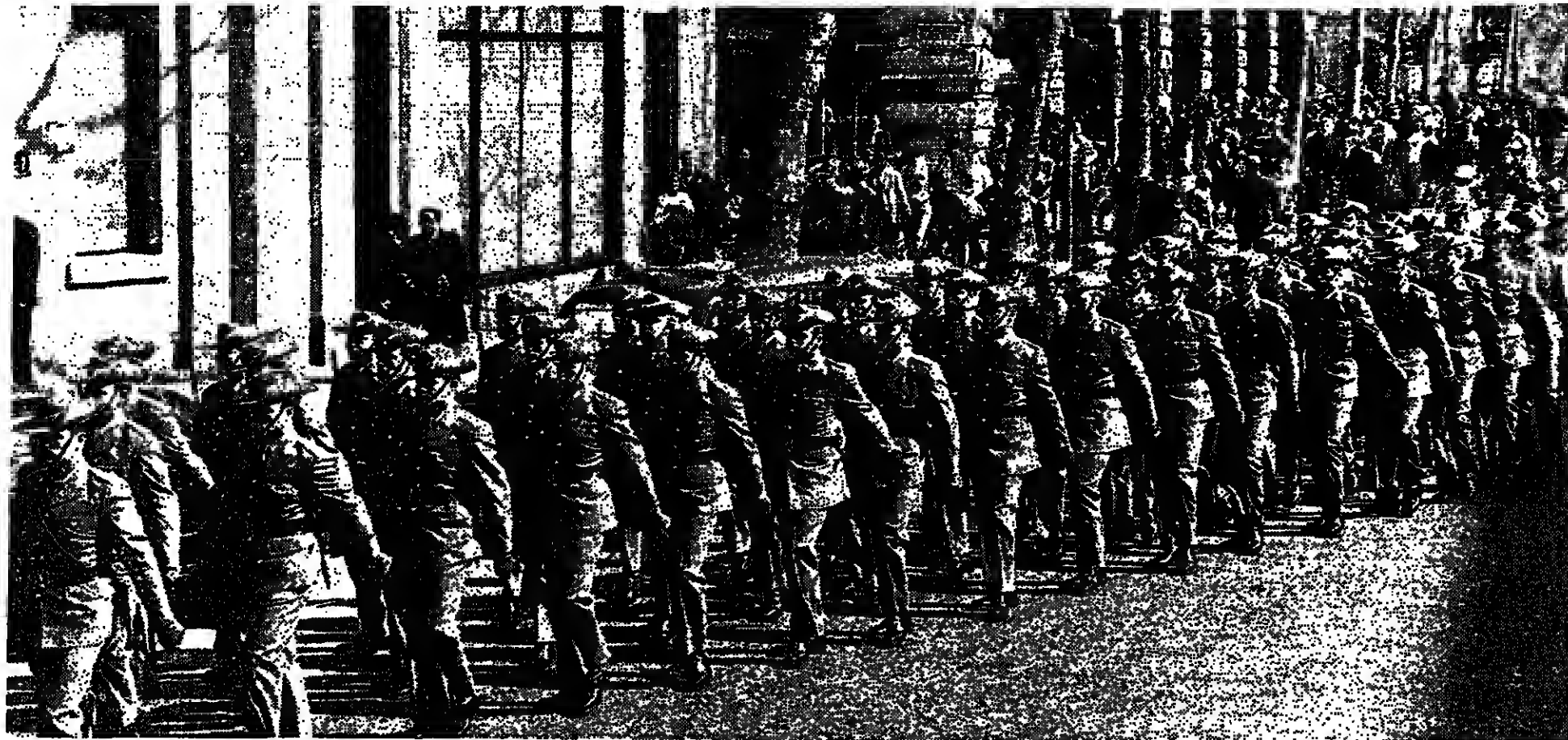
Birthdays today

Mr Alan Aycuborn, playwright, 49; Lord Bruce-Gardyne, 58; Miss Montserrat Caballe, opera singer, 55; Miss Joan Grant, author, 81; Lord Inglewood, 79; Mr Uwe Kitzinger, president, Templeton College, Oxford, 60; the Earl of Limerick, 57; Mr A.W. Mabbie, archivist, 67; Mr Bryan Magee, writer, 58; Mr Marshall Sir Baron Maguire, 76; Mr Bobby Moore, footballer, 47; Lady Ricketta, former chairman, National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, 69; Mrs Wendy Savage, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 53.

Marriage

The marriage took place in London on April 7, between James, son of Mr John and Lady Gillian Anderson, and Emily, daughter of the late Viscount Astor and Philippa Viscountess Astor.

An Australian march down memory lane



Union forecast of anarchy for TV companies

By Tim Jones

Independent television companies were warned yesterday they would be "creating a recipe for anarchy" if they backed out of national agreements which have become increasingly controversial following disclosures of massive overtime payments to some union members.

The warning, given by Mr Alan Sapper, general secretary of the ACIT technicians' union, came as Tyne-Tees Television announced its withdrawal from the ITV national agreements which date back almost thirty years.

Mr Chris Stoddart, Director of Resources at Tyne-Tees, said it was no longer appropriate in the new competitive climate to be party to the agreements. "At Tyne-Tees, we wish to take full control of our own negotiations as, indeed, we have increasingly been doing over the last three years."

At the same time in London, the ITV Association, the joint employers body, was being urged to scrap clauses in national agreements which protect national deals from being undermined locally.

The companies have been emboldened to confront the unions because the introduction of new technology and the encouragement of political support from Mrs Thatcher who is known to regard the industry as "the last bastion of restrictive practices".

Earlier this year, TV-am dismissed 229 ACIT technicians following a dispute over manning during which it was revealed that one man had put in an overtime claim

for £92,000 for three weeks' work.

Tyne-Tees has written to the general secretaries of the four media unions, the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians, the Broadcasting and Entertainment Trades Alliance, the Electrical, Electronic, Plumbing and Communication Union and the National Union of Journalists to tell them it will end its involvement with national agreements from the end of June.

Mr Stoddart said the decision to leave the national TV agreements was "a further logical development to cut loose from the past, and to face up to competition from new programme services and independent producers."

Tyne-Tees took its decision following two agreements with the EETPU - following an acrimonious dispute - and the ACTU, after nine months of negotiation.

Mr Stoddart said the fundamental principles underlying the two agreements are that crewing and hours worked should directly reflect the programme or operation to be done, and should not be based on any previous practice.

Essentially, the agreements provide for the acceptance, without restrictive practices, of flexible working and the operation of new technology.

Motions to consider industrial action against the moves will be put to the annual conference of BETA, which begins in Brighton on Thursday.



Soldiers of the Australian Army Royal Guard marching along the Aldwych outside Australia House in London yesterday, and (right) sharing a joke with the natives. The 187-strong contingent are in Britain as part of the Bicentennial celebrations, and between Saturday and the end of April will be standing guard on Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, St James's Palace and the Tower of London.

It was the Australian Army Royal Guard's first duty visit to London for 35 years, and they were welcomed yesterday by Mr Douglas McClelland, the Australian High Commissioner.

With their distinctive slouch hats and brown tunics, the Australian Army Royal Guard have made only three previous visits to London, to mark the 1937 Coronation, the 1946 Victory Parade and the Coronation in 1953.

Steel set to stay on

Continued from page 1

Mr Steel, who has led the Liberals since 1976, was strongly urged by the majority of his Parliamentary colleagues to stand.

Several of them signed a "round-robin" letter asking him to stay on. Others wrote to him directly. It is understood that both Mr Robert Maclean, the former SDP leader, and Mr Charles Kennedy, the former SDP MP, have also privately indicated support for his candidacy.

Mr Steel's public comments in recent months had given the impression that he was against the idea of remaining in top-flight politics, particularly after the fiasco of the merger process.

The leadership election consists of a ballot of the entire party membership, with the result being announced at the end of June.

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Continued from page 1

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Nationwide protests greet social security reforms

Continued from page 1

changed "if thrift is not to be severely discouraged". It was unfair that pensioners with a sizeable income but no savings were in a preferential position; people with the old-age pension and an occupational pension would still receive housing benefit but those with nothing but the old age pension and the interest on savings of more than £6,000 would not.

Mr Robin Cook, Labour's spokesman on social services, said that, according to figures from the government actuary, the balance left in the national insurance fund at the end of the financial year would be a record £8,500 million, double the amount recommended as prudent to cover unexpected liabilities.

In a letter to the Prime Minister, he said: "Ministers

are boarding an extra £4,000 million while curbing the benefits of the people the fund is meant to help".

The Treasury contribution to the fund had been cut by £550 million, almost enough to restore all the housing benefit cuts.

The Prime Minister, when challenged today over the alterations, will underline that the object of the reforms is to simplify the system and to concentrate help where it is most needed. Ministers accept there are losers but emphasize that it would be impossible to carry out any reforms if there was a precondition that nobody should lose.

Mr Moore denied that the housing benefit limit was a "tax on thrift". He said that 88 per cent of pensioners would be better off or no worse off. The Government

was helping those with very little; in any reform of the system there had to be a judgement about where that help stopped.

Mr Major, who, as Minister for Social Security, was closely involved in preparing the changes, said they represented a much-needed and long overdue simplification.

He said it was misleading to suggest there was a contradiction between the Budget on the one hand and the reforms. The Budget would help build greater prosperity which was essential if they were to have the resources to meet their obligations to those in need.

He said: "Unless the economy is sound and growing we cannot afford the improvements in social security and other services that we all wish to see. We cannot protect the poor if the country is poor."

Lords sketch Smart host for the yes-no interlude

In many respects, Lord Young of Graffham bears an uncanny resemblance to Mr Michael Miles, the influential television quizmaster who became widely known in the mid-to-late 1960's for his popular programme "Take Your Pick". Within this extraordinary similarity - up until now largely ignored by political commentators - there might well lie a clue to the character of the present Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. Yes or no?

Yes. Gong! It was, of course, one of Mr Miles's guiding rules that his contestants should never utter the words "yes" or "no". If ever they did, the gong would bang and off they would be led. Lord Young sticks rigidly by Mr Miles's principles, applying them to himself with an even greater rigour than he demands of others.

Yesterday, the quizmaster was to become the quizzed when he was due to be called to account for himself in a Private Notice Question from Lord Shackleton. Lord Shackleton believes that Lord Young deceived the House when he implied that there was no deadline to British involvement in the Canadian Radarsat satellite project. Lord Young says he did not. Yes or no?

A few minutes before he was due on, Lord Young trotted into the Chamber of the House of Lords with a brisk and confident air, nodding this way and that to the ranks of panellists, his traditional red clipboard nestling in his hand. Lovely you could make it, his expression seemed to suggest, I'm sure we're due for a lot of light-hearted fun.

It is customary for major stars to be preceded by a warm-up artist, often a comedian, to encourage a bit of animation in their reactions. While Lord Young made a few last-minute adjustments to his over-heat double-breasted suit, it fell to Lord St John of Fawley to dust down an old gag or two. County Hall, he drawled, was one of the most hideous structures in London, even in the Kingdom. Could it not now be demolished? Boom! Boom! The Government spokesman couldn't agree. Well, said Olde-Tyme trumper Lord "Uncle Bob" Mellish, if it wasn't the worst building, could he say what was worse? Boom! Boom!

By this time, the Conservative benches were banging their gongs, demanding that the temporary quizmaster be dismissed. Lord Young sat back, his ordeal over, his smile somewhat less avid than usual. And as for Lord Shackleton, he received the due punishment meted out to so many offenders in our society. Lord Longford sidled over and patted him on the back.

By now, the House was beautifully warmed up, so much so that steam could be seen to rise from some of its most prominent members. Lord Young had finished wiping his spectacles and was now folding and refolding his handkerchief, ready to pop it back, crisp and clean, into his top pocket. He rose, stretched both arms out and prepared for his inquisition. In front of him sat his opposing panellists, all with their gongs to the fore.

Lord Shackleton said that he would not accuse Lord Young of misleading the House, a trick statement really meaning that he would accuse Lord Young of misleading the House. "I did not mislead Your Lordship's House", declared Lord Young. The position on the Radarsat project was very simple, he said: "We will make up our minds in good time". His bright, somewhat too large white cuffs seemed to twinkle in the sunlight.

"I accept Lord Young's expression of regret that the House was undoubtedly misled", chipped in Lord Shackleton, who was fast revealing that his own knowledge of techniques employed on "Take Your Pick" was virtually encyclopaedic.

"Excuse me", Lord Young, his face reddening, his cuffs aquiver, leapt to his feet. "Excuse me but I did not mislead the House. I stand by each and every word I said."

Lord Shackleton then seemed to say that he had not meant to say what he had said about what Lord Young had said he hadn't said, but then he ruined it by saying again what he hadn't meant to say. "Of course I withdraw that remark. I just hope the Noble Lord will come a bit clearer", he said, adding: "It is within the knowledge of the House that the House was deceived."

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Craig Brown

Raid mix-up kills girl

A Glasgow van driver who thought he was being attacked by robbers ran over and killed a four-year-old girl yesterday in a bid to escape.

When he found that thieves were stealing meat from the rear of his delivery van on the sprawling Easterhouse estate, he accelerated forward but, finding his way blocked by a car, reversed. Unknown to him, he had driven over the girl, Lynn Wilson, who was playing in the street.

The driver, unaware of what had happened, then found that an enraged crowd of between 20 and 30 people

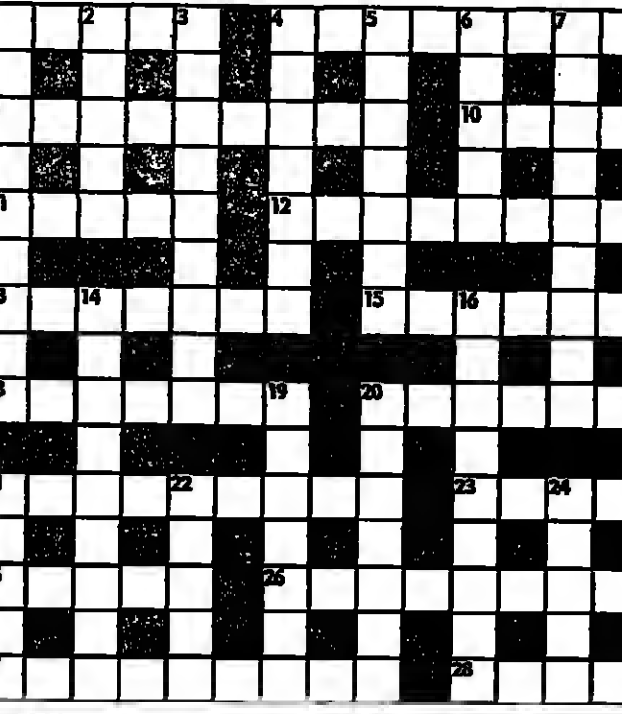
were hammering on the side of his van.

He thought they were part of the gang of thieves and drove forward to escape, running over the child again.

Motorists thought he was a hit and run driver and blocked his exit. The crowd again banged on the sides of the van. One of them, after grabbing a wheelbarrow, smashed the windshield of the van.

A taxi driver, Mr Robert McSorley, said: "The driver was screaming. He kept shouting for the crowd to call the police, but everyone was shouting."

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,641



ACROSS
1 The monstrous regiment carried the day without me (5).
4 Try to complete flight (5,4).
9 Rumpus and ruckus reach their ultimate, we hear, in disorderly conduct (9).
10 Treacherous person, but one important to a ruler (5).
11 In 23 it is shifted by bulldozers (5).
12 Making girl more accomplished, that's magic (9).
13 Free from constraint - tight by implication? (7).
15 Dominant leader interrupts in excessive way (7).
18 Relations of a sort with revolutionary (7).
20 Admit defeat against one of the top players, we hear (7).
21 One thus might appear ridiculous (9).
23 Spirit featured in the Arthurian legends (5).
25 Put up, by the sound of it, and knocked down (5).
26 What Rovers do when game stands about 1-5 (9).
27 With what's in the paper, newspaperman is satisfied (9).
28 Lets up and stops short of a hundred (5).

DOWN
1 Jonah couldn't have given it you, alas! (5,4).
2 Doctor, we need the right cutting implement (5).
3 Jones is a near one (9).
4 Lever that's altered in some way (7).
5 Raises some food for one newly arrived (7).
6 Crude dwelling place by salt-water lake (5).
7 Pro's one up - blunders deliberately (2,7).
8 Look after union's employees, primarily (5).
14 Eighty winks? Not to start with, thirteen (4,5).
16 Drink, then a row - the end of the story (5,4).
17 Latest bit of equipment, man says, is US (3,6).
19 When it's dry long grass of course gets covered in dust outside (7).
20 Players went ahead, having moved two men (7).
21 Cyril's moving words (5).
22 Leader of rebellion? Leader of rebellion's inside a cell (3).
24 Collect featured in a service (5).

Concise Crossword, page 15

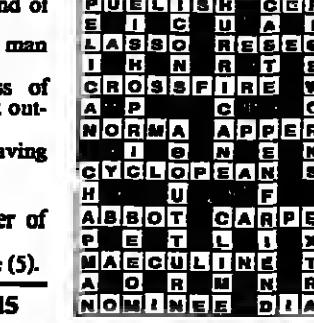
WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?
By Philip Howard

- QUORATE
a. A crystal
b. Forming a quorum
c. Measure of speed and direction
- FAMICIDE
a. A slanders
b. A focused weed-killer
c. Starvation
- PAPHIAN
a. A Fijian language
b. A shirker
c. Erotic
- PATOOT
a. The sweetest
b. A burnt potato
c. A French selection

Answers on page 22, column 1

Solution to Puzzle No 17,640



WEATHER

Scotland will have a cloudy day with a little light rain, falling as sleet or snow on the hills. Most areas should be dry with sunny spells. Southern England will become increasingly cloudy and windy. Rain may spread into southern counties later. Northern Scotland may be cold, but temperatures in most areas will be above average. Outlook: Cloudy with some rain in Scotland. Elsewhere, mainly dry with sunny spells.

ABROAD

Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Alexandria 18 64 s	Madrid 15 50 c	Paris 14 57 c	Scarbore 6 8	11 52	sunny
Algiers 21 70 c	Malta 23 73 s	Seville 11 11	London 7 9	11 52	sunny
Amman 11 52 c	Mexico C 23 72 s	Southend 9 0	13 55	sunny	
Amman 11 52 c	Miami 24 76 r	Eastbourne 11 2	13 55	sunny	
Barcelona 29 84 c	Montreal 8 43 d	Sandown 10 7	10 50	sunny	
Bombay 27 81 c	Osaka 14 57 s	Bournemouth 10 2	11 52	sunny	
Bombay 27 81 c	Osaka 14 57 s	Weymouth 10 2	10 48	sunny	
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AROUND BRITAIN

Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London 7 9	11 52	sunny	London 7 9	11 52	sunny
London 7 9	11 52	sunny	London 7 9	11 52	sunny
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SCOTLAND

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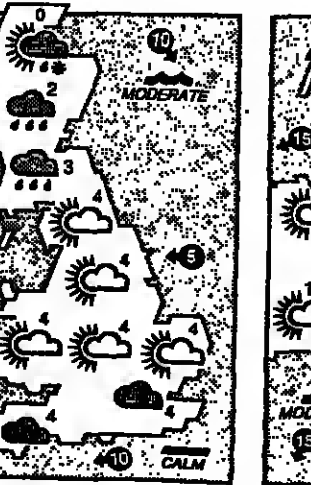
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London 7 9	11 52	sunny	London 7 9	11 52	sunny
London 7 9	11 52	sunny	London 7 9	11 52	sunny
London 7 9	11 52	sunny	London 7 9	11 52	sunny

AM



LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 8 pm, 17C (59F); min 8 pm to 8 am, 5C (41F). Rain: 0.2 in to 8 pm, 10.7 in. Bar: mean sea level, 5.2 in, 1016.0 millibars, falling. 1,000 millibars - 29.53 in.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 8 pm, 12C (54F); min 8 pm to 8 am, 5C (41F). Rain: 0.2 in to 8 pm, 10.7 in. Bar: mean sea level, 5.2 in, 1016.0 millibars, falling. 1,000 millibars - 29.53 in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Sunday: Highest day temp: London: 14C (57F); lowest day temp: Llandudno: 6C (43F); highest night temp: Folkestone: 11.4 in.

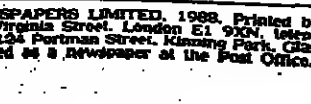
LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 8.20 pm to 5.30 am
Bristol 8.30 pm to 5.40 am
Edinburgh 8.44 pm to 5.42 am
Manchester 8.25 pm to 5.44 am
Preston 8.42 pm to 5.35 am

YESTERDAY

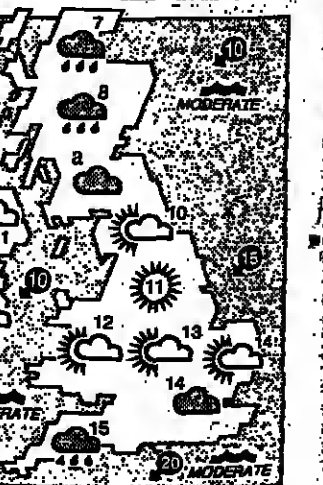
Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London 7 9	11 52	sunny	London 7 9	11 52	sunny
London 7 9	11 52	sunny	London 7 9	11 52	sunny
London 7 9	11 52	sunny	London 7 9	11 52	sunny
London 7 9	11 52	sunny	London 7 9	11 52	sunny

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by London Weather Centre

PM



LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 8 pm, 17C (59F); min 8 pm to 8 am, 5C (41F). Rain: 0.2 in to 8 pm, 10.7 in. Bar: mean sea level, 5.2 in, 1016.0 millibars, falling. 1,000 millibars - 29.53 in.

MANCHESTER

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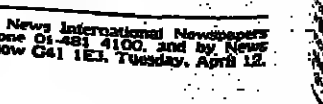
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London 7 9	11 52	sunny	London 7 9	11 52	sunny
London 7 9	11 52	sunny	London 7 9	11 52	sunny
London 7 9	11 52	sunny	London 7 9	11 52	sunny

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by London Weather Centre

Advertisement for 'PART 2' featuring 'Scottish TV growth slowing' and 'Wardle higher'. Includes a 'SUMMARY' section with 'STOCK MARKETS' and 'INTEREST RATES'. The text is partially obscured and difficult to read.

'Business as usual' for Ronson on the eve of court appearance

Heron unveils £100m plan

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

On the eve of today's court appearance on charges relating to the Guinness affair, an ebullient Mr Gerald Ronson, the chairman of Heron International, unveiled a £100 million expansion plan to turn Heron into Britain's largest independent petrol retailer, creating 1,500 new jobs in the process.

He said: "The sign outside Heron is 'Business As Usual'. All our businesses have been expanded in the last 12 months, and the group has more on today both at home and abroad than we have had for a long time.

"We are not cutting back elsewhere to build up the petrol chain. That will be paid for partly out of our cash flow, and our banks are also backing us with a £50 million five-year loan. There are more things in the Heron pipeline including two big town-centre developments to be announced soon, as well as some major housebuilding schemes."

Mr Ronson said he had never been tempted to take the Heron group to a flotation. And he was scornful of ill-founded rumours that he might want to sell up Heron and live abroad. "I don't know what Heron would be worth if it went on the market. I don't know what I'm worth. You don't spend your time sitting

down and calculating whether you are worth threepence or two bob - there's a business there needing to be run and you get on with it."

Mr Ronson was not talking about the Guinness case - "for obvious reasons". Today, with other defendants in the case, he appears on remand before Bow Street magistrates in London.

"I am going in with my head held high," he said. "Everybody is being very supportive. It has affected none of our relationships with suppliers, banks and so on. It gives us at Heron a very good feeling."

He and his family had been backed up to the hilt, went on Mr Ronson. "It's the same whether it is business colleagues or those I meet in my charity work - I'm glad to say I still find time for that community work in a 90-hour working week. I must have, done a few right things in my time to get this sort of support."

The petrol chain expansion, which will increase the number of Heron outlets from the present 60 to 200 over the next three years, should see the service stations by March 1991 accounting for a fifth of group turnover, which currently is £1.2 billion a year.

Heron, which pioneered self-service at petrol stations in the mid-1960s, has developed 400 petrol outlets over

the years but sold many of them on to other operators. Now that a combination of petrol sales, convenience shopping and services such as car washes are proving commercially rewarding, Heron is going over to this formula, plus heavyweight branding with the petrol being sold under the Heron label.

The forecourt shops will carry cigarettes, confectionery, hot drinks and fast foods, with the addition of refrigerated items at most units. It is planned to add newspapers and magazines. Discussions with banks are going on to introduce cash dispensers.

The pricing policy is to put Heron in the mid-range between the big operators such as the main oil companies and cut-price outlets. A computerized system for dealing with credit cards - accounting for 30 per cent of petrol sales - should help the Heron chain pump 200 million gallons of petrol a year, or twice the national average per outlet. The aim is to take 3 per cent of the petrol sales market, which would put Heron among the top 10 operators.

Mr Ronson forecast: "Heron's Big H will become a familiar landmark. We are building a business on service and high standards, because through service comes customer satisfaction and loyalty - and that leads to profit."



High hopes: Gerald Ronson at the Savoy in London yesterday, where he revealed his plans (Photograph: Ros Drinkwater)

Executive Editor David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1439.8 (+20.4)
FT-SE 100 1810.5 (+30.8)

Bargains 25715 (31521)

USM (Datastream) 147.05 (+1.78)

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8665 (-0.0200)

W German mark 3.1291 (-0.0033)

Trade-weighted 77.8 (-0.5)

Scottish TV growth slowing

Scottish Television, which recently made its first diversification outside the television industry by buying Pacific Hyde & Associates, the employment consultancy, for £6.5 million, says that its progress in 1987 fell short of the dynamic growth of recent years.

Pretax profit edged forward from £8.07 million to £8.95 million.

The final dividend is raised from 12p to 13.5p a share, making 17p (15p) for the year.

Cannon ahead

Cannon Street Investments, the USM-quoted industrial holding company, made pretax profits in 1987 of £12.7 million against just £3.1 million in the previous year. The total dividend was raised from 4p to 6p. *Tempus, page 26*

Wardle higher

Wardle Stores, the maker of speciality plastic products, increased pretax profits from £5.6 million to £7.7 million in the six months to end-February. The interim dividend was raised by a third to 3.325p. *Tempus, page 26*

Veteran dies

Nicosia (Cyprus) - Mr Ezekias Pappalomonu, the veteran communist secretary of the Communist party, Akef, has died a heart attack, aged 80.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

Table with columns for Stock Market, Dow Jones, Nikkei Average, Hang Seng, Amsterdams Gen, S&P 500, Frankfurt, Commerzbank, Brussels, Paris CAC, Zurich S&K Gen, London, FT All-Share, FT-500, FT Gold Mines, FT Fixed Interest, FT Govt Secs, Recent issues, Closing prices.

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Table with columns for RISES: Christie's Intl, Carter Allen, Gerard National, Union Discount, Body Shop, Gresham House, BSE, Daejan, BP, Cador Group, Recknagel, BAT, Reuters, Rank Org, Shell, Southend Prop; FALLS: Schroders, Access & Man, Closing prices.

INTEREST RATES

Table with columns for London Bank Base, 3-month interbank, 3-month eligible bills, US Prime Rate, Federal Funds, 3-month Treasury Bills, 30-year bonds.

CURRENCIES

Table with columns for London, New York, DM, Sfr, FF, Yen, ECU.

GOLD

Table with columns for London Fixing, AM, Close, New York, COMEX.

NORTH SEA OIL

Table with columns for Brent (May), Denotes latest trading price, Roundup, Stock Market, Tempus, City Diary, Comment, Traded Opts, Wall Street.

Farmers agree to meet BAT

By Alison Eadie

Farmers Group, the Los Angeles insurance company being stalked by BAT Industries, has had a surprise change of heart and agreed to meet BAT representatives.

Farmers is still investigating the possibility of a leveraged buyout.

In a letter to Mr Patrick Sheehy, the BAT chairman, Mr Leo Denlea, chairman and chief executive of Farmers, asked BAT to state unequivocally whether it was prepared

to raise its bid from the current \$63 a share and if so to what level.

Mr Denlea has offered to reveal confidential information about the company to BAT, so long as BAT signs a confidentiality agreement. He said that "we are prepared to furnish you with the same confidential information which we have made available to others".

Mr Denlea has given BAT

until 9 am New York time today to say whether it wishes to receive the confidential information and meet with Farmers. He has also requested notification of a higher offer "without delay".

BAT has greeted the news with a cautious welcome and its lawyers are examining the confidentiality document. BAT has constantly maintained that its \$4.5 billion (£2.5 billion) bid could be raised. *Comment, page 27*

Germany's growth 'above 2%'

By Our Financial Editor

West Germany's economy is set to grow by more than 2 per cent this year, Hergerhard Stoltenberg, the finance minister, said before going to tomorrow's Group of Seven talks in Washington.

That would be an advance on the official government forecast of 1.5 to 2 per cent growth, which had previously been regarded by private analysts as too optimistic.

Many private forecasts at the start of the year suggested growth would be a maximum of 1.5 per cent.

Herr Stoltenberg said, however, that output had been higher than expected in the first quarter. Economic developments in most leading industrial countries had been better than feared after the October stock market crash.

"Now, primarily because of strong growth of private consumption, but also because of positive developments in orders for manufactured goods in the first quarter of 1988, there is a growth trend of more than 2 per cent," he said.

He added that West German growth was being aided by tax cuts of almost DM14 billion (£4.5 billion) introduced at the start of 1988, and by the stronger US dollar.

Pearson move to defend Lazard

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Pearson, the industrial, banking and publishing group, yesterday announced a defensive agreement which ensures the independence of its Lazard banking partnership if Pearson is taken over.

Under the agreement, Lazard Partners has the option to buy out Pearson's 30 per cent holding in it if the group ownership changes.

Lazard Partners would be obliged to buy Pearson's stake at a fair market value or at a premium if Pearson changes ownership.

In return for the option, Pearson is to receive a 3.6 per cent increase in its share of the partnership's distributed income, to 53.6 per cent, for seven years.

The arrangement is part of a wider agreement renewing the

partnership of the three Lazard banks in London, New York and Paris for a further 21 years. The partnership was first formed in 1984.

Lord Blakenham, chairman and chief executive of Pearson, said that giving Lazard Partners the option to buy its shares would have happened even without the build-up of the News Corporation stake because of the need to have a clear ownership structure for the banks.

It is not clear whether Opec will ask non-Opec observers to cut production by part of the 500,000 increase in non-Opec production over the past year or simply not to take advantage of cuts by over-producing Opec members.

Dealers said Brent prices were likely to stay above \$16 until after Opec's meetings.

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Highland up

A strong first-half performance at Highland Distilleries pushed pretax profits up 19 per cent to £7.3 million on turnover up 7.5 per cent to £71 million. The interim dividend was increased by 12.5 per cent to 0.765p. *Tempus, page 26*

SDA chief to be Britoil chairman

By Our Industrial Editor

Sir Robin Duthie, chairman of the Scottish Development Agency, is to be the new chairman of Britoil following its takeover by BP.

He is expected to take over from Sir Philip Shelbourne, the present chairman, after an extraordinary general meeting to be held on April 26 to approve changes in the Britoil board.

Nominated to the board in addition to Sir Robin are Sir Lindsay Alexander, Lord Arbutnot, Mr Basil Butler, Sir Campbell Fraser, Dr John Hills, Mr Ian McCutcheon, Mr James Miller and Mr John Saint.

Sir Robin said: "The composition of the new Britoil board, which has a very strong Scottish content, is, I believe, illustrative of the positive view that BP have taken of their commitment to Scotland."

Oil prices rise by \$1 on Opec's firm stand

By Graham Searjeant

Crude oil prices rose by more than \$1 per barrel as surprised dealers reacted to Opec's unexpected determination to control production and to heightened political tension between Gulf states.

After a surge in prices in Tokyo, oil gained a further 30 cents in European trading to take Brent crude for June to a peak of \$16.60 a barrel, compared with a closing US price of \$14.54 on Friday. Oiled prices later slumped to \$16.58.

Saturday's meeting of the price monitoring committee of Opec in Vienna had been thought unlikely to produce substantive action. Instead it called a further meeting for April 23, to include talks with non-Opec producers such as Mexico and Egypt, to be followed by a meeting of all 13 Opec members two days later.

There were conflicting impressions yesterday of what action Opec might take.

Mr Belkacem Nabi, Algeria's oil minister, said he expected a definite decision to cut Opec output.

But Mr Gintanj Kartasasmita, Indonesia's new oil minister, said it had been decided the time was not ripe for Opec to cut its production ceiling - 15.06 million barrels a day, excluding Iraq.

Instead, he suggested, Opec would concentrate on enforcing discipline on those members who were cheating on their quotas.

It is not clear whether Opec will ask non-Opec observers to cut production by part of the 500,000 increase in non-Opec production over the past year or simply not to take advantage of cuts by over-producing Opec members.

Dealers said Brent prices were likely to stay above \$16 until after Opec's meetings.

Shares up 30 points as dollar stages recovery

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Share prices rose sharply on the London stock exchange as a recovery in the dollar reversed sterling's recent advance.

The FT-SE 100 share index gained 30.8 points (1.7 per cent), pushing the index back up over the symbolic 1,800 level to 1,810.5.

As the new account opened, dealers took their lead from another all-time record high in Tokyo yesterday - the Nikkei average rose 175.98 to 26,924.87 - and Friday's gains on Wall Street, where the Dow Jones index reached its highest level since the October crash. Share prices rose again in New York yesterday.

The dollar recovered against all leading currencies as dealers anticipated supportive official statements and actions at this week's Group of Seven meeting in Washington. It rose 1.3 pfmings to DM 1.6855 in thin trading.

But the pound also fell against most currencies, producing a sharp drop of two cents against the dollar to close at \$1.8565. The sterling index fell half a point to 77.8.

The pound's rate against the mark, the focus of the Government's internal argument over

interest and exchange rate management, also fell back by just over a pfening to DM3.1273 as dealers respected what they saw as a new short-term ceiling of DM3.15.

The pound fell partly in a delayed response to Friday's second base rate cut, exacerbated by an early fall of 3/16 in money market rates after the weekend news from Opec. Three-month money ended 1/16 lower at 8 3/4%.

Dealers also reacted negatively to the 0.5 per cent rise

in producer prices.

The reversal of sterling's recent strength, particularly against the dollar, was further good news for shares on the stock market.

While industry is more concerned with the sterling/mark rate, the stock market still pays more attention to the dollar rate.

This affects the sterling value of profits from US subsidiaries more immediately than the mark rate affects trading. Many leading companies in the 100-share index

have substantial dollar earnings and some of these recovered well from recent setbacks.

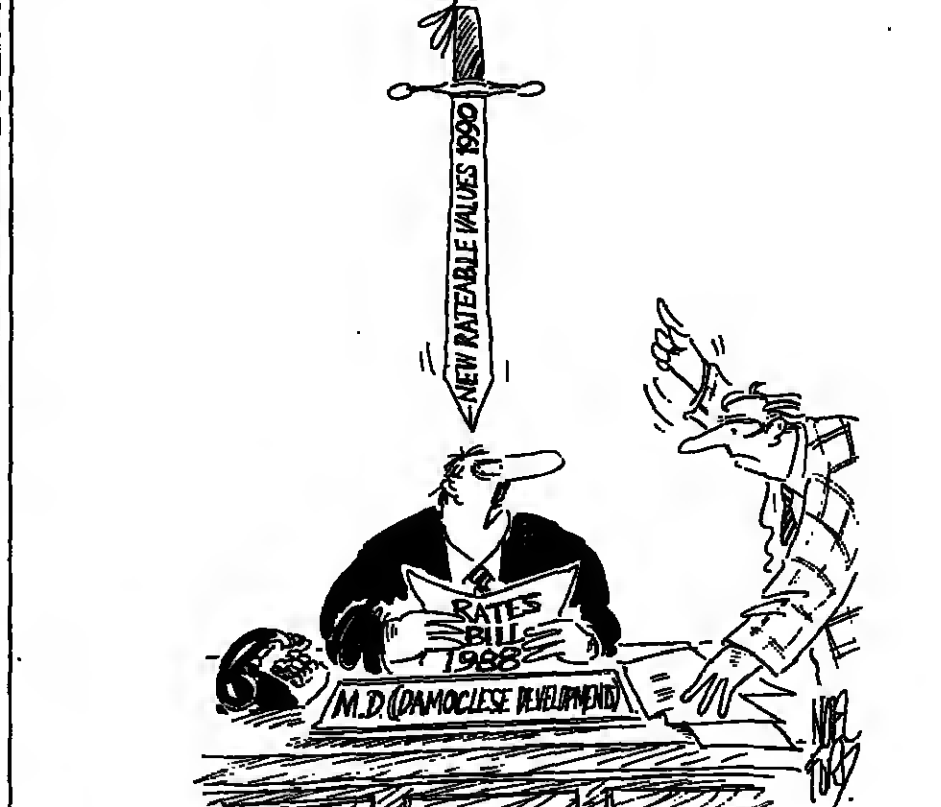
The dollar's gains were helped by a further fall in Japan's trade surplus in March, but owed more to sentiment inspired by expected *bonhomie* between finance ministers in Washington than to substantive changes.

Ministers in Japan, West Germany and the United States all stressed the need for currency stability.

Dealers are, however, awaiting Thursday's US trade figures, generally expected to show a February deficit of about \$11.5 billion (£6.2 billion).

The industrialized nations have agreed on a new programme to provide more concessional loan terms and greater access to resources for developing countries struggling to grow their way out of debt, a senior US Treasury official said (Bailey Morris writes from Washington).

Ministers attending the International Monetary Fund here are expected to endorse the new IMF programme and specific funding levels which



"Oh, for heaven's sake, Prutchett - let's worry about one thing at a time!"

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Underwoods in shake-up as it tells of profit decline

By Cliff Feltham

Shares in Underwoods, the London-based chain of chemists, fell 8p to 130p on the announcement that the company is undergoing a big management reshuffle, after a fall in profits in the past year.

Analysis is expecting the company to announce profits of about £1 million for the year to January 1988, compared with the previous year's £1.3 million, after Underwoods yesterday admitted it had suffered "disappointing trading figures in the second half of last year, and in particular, the important Christmas period was below expectations."

The company said: "These, together with the accelerated store opening programme, will result in profits for the year ended January 1988 being significantly lower than the previous year."

Mr Alan Gaynor, brought in as managing director earlier this year, is confident, however, that the company can bounce back in the current year. "This is a good company with a very sound base which has unfortunately lost its way. I am sure the new team which have come aboard can soon put it back on the growth path again," he said.

As part of the sweeping changes announced by Mr Gaynor, Mr Brian Kerker has resigned as group managing director to become a non-executive director.

Mr Dennis Casey has resigned as deputy managing director of Underwoods (Cash Chemists), and Mr Henry Padolsky has resigned as marketing director of the same subsidiary. Nominal compensation terms are likely.

Mr Gaynor, aged 37, brought in from the WH Smith Do-It-All chain after a previous career with J Sainsbury and Asda, has also cut back the central office staff from around 230 to fewer than 150.

He said: "The company realized that some different retailing skills were necessary. We found that some of the branches were making their own decisions about what sort of stock they should carry. The poor second half was caused by the company not being sufficiently geared up for the Christmas trade and the distribution set-up was poor. The other problem was that we opened eight branches in the three months before Christmas, which took up a lot of management time."

Mr Greg Thain's Publishing Holdings, whose magazine titles include *Equity International*, *What Mortgage* and *What Investment*, is negotiating the sale of its magazines division as part of a plan to focus on database management and its premium telephone services like Sharecall.

Deals are expected to be finalized by the end of April.

Mr Nigel Harrison, Publishing Holdings' business development director, said: "We've spent six or seven months looking at the group in terms of our direction and the resources we had available and the feeling was that the magazines didn't really fit with our core activities in database management, marketing and telephone information systems."

"The magazines are doing well, but they are at a stage where they need a heavy investment of resources to keep them competitive in the long run."

"We decided we were not going to commit the resources needed."

The magazines currently provide less than 40 per cent of the group's turnover and less than 20 per cent of profits, while accounting for more than 55 per cent of overheads.

Publishing Holdings, which joined the Third Market in January last year, made pretax profits of £168,000 on a turnover of £3.37 million in the half year to last August.

Equity International - which has survived an inauspicious start by being launched in the same week as last October's stock market crash - has already been bought out by its management.

It has paid £40,000 for the title.

Mr Ray Heath, its editor, says that he has no plans to change the direction or content of the publication and reports that advertising revenue has been flowing in again following the recovery in world stock markets in recent months.

The sale of Publishing Holdings' six other magazines is still being negotiated, although it is likely that they, too, will be sold en bloc to their management.

Publishing Holdings to sell its magazines

By Joe Joseph

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COMMENT David Brewerton The rights choice for Lucas pension fund

The pensioners of Lucas Industries are about to dip their work worn hands into their pockets to invest £24 million in the company which keeps them in Old Holborn, Lucas Industries.

The trustees of the pension fund meet this afternoon, and the question of the Lucas rights issue is likely to be on the agenda. If not, then it will come up for air next week. Chairman of the trustees is Bob Brown, a name familiar to Lucas followers as he is also finance director of the company. Yesterday, he would not be drawn on whether or not the trustees, three from the boardroom plus three from nearer the shop floor, are likely to commit new money to the company, but he did point out that in the past the trustees have supported the company's fund raising efforts. In return, Lucas maintained its rate of dividend when it might otherwise have been reduced.

The National Association of Pension Funds is not at all enamoured of pension funds investing in the shares of their sponsoring companies, and in some countries it is against the law for them to do so. In this country, the thinking has been muddled, but the opinion of most trustees is that there are plenty of alternatives to investing in the host company, and it avoids conflicts of interest to shop elsewhere. But, for pension funds which have invested already, or may wish to invest in future, in their host companies, a new set of guidelines, "best practice", are being

written by a working party and will be published within the next few weeks.

Unfortunately, those guidelines will come too late for the trustees of the Lucas funds, even if they postpone the rights decision until next week. The trustees are on their own, and although the percentage of the funds invested in Lucas, at less than 4 per cent, is no big deal there is an important issue at stake. The trustees have the opportunity to follow modern thinking and take advantage of the rights issue to allow their 14.3 per cent stake in Lucas to be diluted, allowing the underwriters to do their duty.

But at the same time, they may wish to back yet again a company which seems to be going places. They have come to no harm backing the last rights issue at 365p in 1985, and are unlikely to suffer by pitching into the latest effort at 500p. That is, however, to miss the point. Trustees would be better advised to avoid the potential conflicts of interest and invest outside their own companies.

The trustees of the Lucas funds are unlikely, however, to change the habits of a lifetime, and are all set to plough their money into the rights issue. It is as well for them that the issue does represent a cheap way into Lucas shares. Now it is up to the company, including the chairman of the pension trustees, to demonstrate it can use the money well.

Profits ahead at British Island

By Martin Waller

British Island Airways, the charter airline, with Mr Peter Villa as chairman, made pretax profits of £1.98 million last year, up from £1.63 million in 1986. Turnover increased from £32.10 million to £38.54 million.

Mr Villa pictured on the tarmac at Gatwick Airport with one of his planes, owns more than 60 per cent of the equity. He said plans for this year included a new headquarters at Gatwick and further expansion of the group's fleet.

Mr Tim Coombs, transport analyst at Conny NatWest, was a little disappointed at a dividend held at 2p but sees no reason to change his forecast of £2.8 million for the current year. (Photograph: James Morgan)



Crash dents profits at Fortnum & Mason

By Carol Ferguson

Fortnum & Mason, the department store, increased its pretax profits by 19 per cent last year, despite finding itself with too much fashion stock at the year-end.

An excellent performance from food sales which account for half the group turnover, compensated for a less than sparkling year for fashion sales.

Mr Gerald Hamilton, Fortnum's managing director, said: "Loss of our customers' earnings from the City, and were affected by the October crash."

"We bought our stock in July and August, not knowing October was going to happen." Fortnum is now having

an out-of-season sale to dispose of the surplus stocks. "We'll kit you out for Glyndebourne for a third off," Mr Hamilton added.

The strong dollar was still keeping the American tourists at bay, but there has been a compensating rise of Japanese tourists. This, says Mr Hamilton, explains the explosion in the demand for tea. "The Japanese see Fortnum & Mason as a tea house."

Strong food sales, however, allowed trading profits to rise 21 per cent to £870,000 on turnover up 16 per cent to £18.3 million for the 52 weeks to January 30. The dividend for the year was increased by 8 per cent to 44.5p net.

\$1bn Spalvins bid to restructure Adsteam

From Richard Battley, Sydney

Mr John Spalvins has launched the second stage of his restructuring of the Adelaide Steam Ship group (Adsteam) with a Aus\$1 billion (£397 million) takeover bid by National Consolidated (NC) for David Jones, the prestige retailer.

The bid follows another last month by Petersville Sleigh, the associate company, for Tooth & Company, the brewer.

Analysts believe that Mr Spalvins, executive chairman of Adelaide Steam Ship and chairman of NC, is driven by a desire to reduce both the minority holdings within his group and its potential to incur capital gains taxes.

NC, the Melbourne-based engineering group, is unconditionally offering Aus\$9 far each David Jones share, 40 cents higher than the market's closing price yesterday. David Jones has rejected the offer.

Simultaneously, NC announced plans to raise Aus\$119 million through a one-for-two renounceable rights issue of 49.5 million shares. This is being underwritten by Adelaide Steam Ship, which directly holds 7 per cent of NC. Tooth & Company owns 49.9 per cent of NC.

NC owns 6.5 per cent of the target. David Jones's biggest shareholder is Adelaide Steam Ship itself. It has 47 per cent.

Streamlined Folkes rises to £2.64m

By Michael Tate

Improving economic conditions in the West Midlands enabled Folkes Group, the property and engineering company, to lift pretax profits from £2.4 million to £2.64 million in 1987. This was despite the heavy restructuring programme undertaken during the year, and a fall in turnover to £55.6 million from £58.3 million.

But an extraordinary item of £1.85 million, relating to the closure of the Walsall-based Cassini bedroom furniture division, and other rationalization costs have al-

most wiped out group earnings at £333,000. The board has had to dip into reserves to pay the dividend. It is perhaps a market of its confidence in the future that the final dividend is lifted to 1.25p a share, making a total of 1.6p (1.5p).

Only the property division turned in lower profits, at £1.5 million against £1.6 million, and that only because of lower gains on property sales. Rentals were up by 13 per cent, and higher levels are still being achieved.

Folkes has spent the past year rationalizing its activ-

ities, and re-equipping its industrial operations, in an effort to increase its competitiveness.

Now the restructuring is over, and, with a better first quarter already behind him, Mr Constantine Folkes, the chairman, says he is optimistic about further improving profit performance.

The services division, which made profits of £335,000 against £250,000, is benefiting from its new building, equipment and buoyant demand. The sale of the Gilbert T Bell steel stockhold-

ing business has released cash for mainline activities.

In the engineering division - profits up from £150,000 to £200,000 - work has begun on a £2.5 million modernization programme that will give the group one of the most cost-efficient high-quality bar conversion plants in Europe. Last week it acquired Hydraroll, which manufactures for the cargo handling industry, for £1.2 million.

And in consumer products, which made £655,000 against £400,000, demand for Ever-tidy kitchen furniture is good, says Mr Folkes.

Red letter day for Shearson

Whoops! The curt farewell letter sent out by Shearson Lehman Brothers last month to all Messrs 1,800 erstwhile private clients, advising them to take their accounts to

Nivison Cantrade, the stock-broking arm of the Swiss Banque Cantrade, seems to have met with a far wider audience than was originally intended. The letter, which advised clients that, as of March 31 "we will no longer be in a position to execute orders on your behalf," adding that, failing any communication, "stock and/or outstanding monies will be returned," prompted, I hear, a flurry of incredulous telephone calls to Shearson Lehman from those most highly prized of investors, the institutional fund managers. For an over zealous computer had apparently dispatched identical letters to practically every City institution as well. Determined to drive the message home, it had even sent several copies to some of the bigger players, with the mighty Prudential receiving no fewer than nine.

So hot were the telephone lines between Messel's salesmen and the said institutions that one of the brokers buried his head in his hands at one stage and cried "Oh God, not another one." "It was a computer error and rather embarrassing," admitted a spokesman for Shearson yesterday. Unless, of course, the computer knows something that he doesn't.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Going for touch down

Yuppie high-jinks in Hounslow followed a rugby match between traded option dealers from BZW and a team fielded jointly by Hoare Govett and Warburg on Sunday. With the challenge laid down by Wedd - the match was organized by its senior dealer David Hodges - the underdogs, captained by Alex Macpherson (and helped by blue button Bruce O'Grady who scored a hat-trick) were insufferable in their celebra-

tions after managing a surprise win with the final score 38-16. But the tables were turned when much-vaunted Warburg supporter John "The Marks" Shires prevented from participating on the pitch by his insurance policy, left to go home home. His £35,000 red Porsche cabriolet had vanished. It was discovered at the far side of the muddy field - pushed there, of course, by Wedd.

Robin's song

Likening the merger of Wood Mackenzie with County NatWest to the Death and Resurrection, WoodMac's Edinburgh-based investment trust analyst Robin Angus yesterday published a celebratory hymn to be sung to the tune of "We plough the fields and scatter." With the chorus being: "All good trusts around

us. Show bargains by the score. So deal with us! And deal with us! Then deal with us some more!" the hymn is accompanied by the instruction that, "Clients should sing it to themselves quickly and then hurry off to the phone with an order or three, to wish us well in our new incarnation." Good to see that Angus still has a sense of humour...

● The job situation in the City is like a revolving door. While scores of brokers have yet to be made redundant in the financial services recession, some City outfits still deem themselves to be operating in a growth market. Among the "Situations vacant" columns in yesterday's newspapers I spied an advertisement for a senior accountant to fill a "high-level investigative accountancy post". The would-be employer? The newly established Serious Fraud Office.



A rebel bows out

David Bailey, director of institutional equities at Phillips & Drew, has become the latest old timer to quit the City of his own accord. "It was a lot more fun in the old days," says Bailey, who departed last week after 18 years with the firm. "The hours have become impossible, and commuting in from Newbury on a top of a 70-hour week leaves me with no time for anything else." His reputation as something of a rebel at P&D, dates back to his days at Southampton University at the end of the '60s - he was involved in two sit-ins there as well as the LSE occupation, sporting long hair, beads and bare feet. He eventually applied for a job as a salesman at P&D only because his flatmate beat him 10 shillings that he couldn't get a job in the City. Still only 39, and described by John Davies of 3i Portfolin Management as "one of the best institutional salesmen I have ever dealt with," Bailey doesn't intend to retire completely. He plans to establish a consultancy to advise on future City developments, to become involved in venture capital and to help his wife, Sue, run their Crafty Cat craft shop and tea room in Newbury.

● Among the latest batch of appropriate names - James Capel's Tokyo food analyst, Mr Chew, the secretary in Sotheby's wine department, Miss Swallow, and the funeral director in Hull by the name of R Boddy.

Carol Leonard

DIAMOND SERVICE

GUESS WHO'S FIRST INTO AMSTERDAM?

It's not British Airways. Not even KLM. Only British Midland can fly you into Amsterdam by 9.00am - and put you on the last flight out.

In fact British Midland have more weekday flights between Heathrow and Amsterdam than any other airline. Which means our schedule will fit your schedule.

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If you fly to Amsterdam, you know which airline means business.

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Strong start to new account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began yesterday. Dealings end April 22. Contango day April 25. Settlement day May 3.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 26).

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Table with columns: No., Company, Name, Code, etc. Lists various companies and their stock prices.

Weekly Dividend. Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

BRITISH FUNDS. Table listing various funds and their performance metrics.

SHORTS (Under Five Years). Table listing short-term investments and their details.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS. Table listing medium-term investments and their details.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS. Table listing long-term investments and their details.

UNDATED. Table listing undated investments and their details.

INDEX-LINKED. Table listing index-linked investments and their details.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP. Table listing banks, discount, and HP-related investments.

ELECTRICALS. Table listing electrical-related investments.

BREWERIES. Table listing various brewery companies and their stock prices.

BUILDING, ROADS. Table listing various building and road-related companies.

FINANCE, LAND. Table listing various finance and land-related companies.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS. Table listing various financial trusts.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS. Table listing various chemical and plastic-related companies.

FOODS. Table listing various food-related companies.

CINEMAS, TV. Table listing various cinema and TV-related companies.

DRAPERY, STORES. Table listing various drapery and store-related companies.

HOTELS, CATERERS. Table listing various hotel and caterer-related companies.

INDUSTRIALS A-D. Table listing various industrial companies (A-D).

INDUSTRIALS E-K. Table listing various industrial companies (E-K).

INDUSTRIALS L-R. Table listing various industrial companies (L-R).

INDUSTRIALS S-Z. Table listing various industrial companies (S-Z).

INSURANCE. Table listing various insurance companies.

LEISURE. Table listing various leisure-related companies.

MINING. Table listing various mining-related companies.

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS. Table listing various newspaper and publisher-related companies.

Table listing various companies and their stock prices.

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Table listing various companies and their stock prices.

OVERSEAS TRADERS. Table listing various overseas traders and their details.

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING. Table listing various paper, print, and advertising-related companies.

PROPERTY. Table listing various property-related companies.

SHIPPING. Table listing various shipping-related companies.

SHOES, LEATHER. Table listing various shoe and leather-related companies.

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT. Table listing various motor and aircraft-related companies.

TEXTILES. Table listing various textile-related companies.

TOBACCO. Table listing various tobacco-related companies.

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Table listing various companies and their stock prices.

third since the start of the calendar year. While it will be no more than a partial replenishment of the levels in the light of the demand, it will have a second-half effect on the industry is generally confident in its ability to increase its sales volume which whisky has been indifferent performance share to wine and spirits. Not least, the effect of the Budget, which marginally reduced the differential between beer and wine.

The distillers' association concerns the industry on whisky gains the capital gains tax rate in 1982. The industry tax on the sales of original cost. Great care and 12-year-old whisky to inflation in the market have a case. It is that the narrowing of the differential between other alcoholic drinks recognition of this.

The industry still has problems, but this is the present. Highland from being a successful growing company. Cash at a company level year pretax profit rose 10 per cent to £4m leaving the shares at a served premium value 13.4.

prevailed before the changes took effect. This one-off effect will be a significant factor in the BIC's performance. A similar situation exists in the case of the other companies. The BIC's performance is a management issue.

and Mr. ... of the ... in ...

Michael ...

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TELEVISION

True colour for Olympics

By Catherine Arnst

Japanese viewers will be able to watch the Olympics this year on television sets with such sharp detail and realistic colour that it will seem as though they are watching a high-quality film.

The broadcasts of the summer games from Seoul, to 200 television sets in 50 public locations throughout Japan, will be the first large public demonstration of the biggest advance in television picture quality since colour was introduced.

They will also represent a victory for the Japanese in their battle with European and American broadcasters, manufacturers and governments over standards for the new technology.

At issue is high-definition television, usually referred to as HDTV, a technology that makes television images as sharp and detailed as the best quality movies.

Because Japan is by far the leader in development of the technology, nationalism and politics have become an important aspect of HDTV's development.

European and American companies are trying to prevent the loss of yet another consumer electronics market to Japan.

Television today is transmitted as images broken into 525 horizontal lines, called scan lines. HDTV expands the number of lines to 1,125, creating an image as sharp as 35 mm film. The new format expands the television screen to a rectangle with a width-to-height ratio of five to three, instead of the four to three ratio of conventional sets.

The wider screen matches the dimension of cinema screens and does not cut off the sides of films as current television sets do.

The problem with HDTV is that it requires a band width five times wider than is allocated to traditional television signals, making it incompatible with existing broadcast equipment and television sets.

Japan's government-owned national broadcasting company, NHK, has been developing HDTV for almost 20 years, and the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industries has budgeted over £2 million this year to promote the relevant technology.

NHK has scheduled the first broadcast of the technology in 1990, by a specially-launched satellite.

But the NHK system's signal is still too wide for the standard broadcast spectrum in Europe and America.

The fear is that unless an alternative to NHK is developed quickly, the Japanese standard will become dominant, forcing broadcasters to adapt or lose business.

In Europe, Philips of the Netherlands is developing an HDTV system similar to that of NHK, that also does not work on existing television sets.

Officials of the European Community are trying to bring political pressure to bear on Japan. EEC officials met with Japanese representatives for three days last month in an effort to persuade them to make HDTV equipment to Western broadcasting standards rather than their own. But the talks produced only a glimmer of cooperation.



Professor Graham Nudd: "Several thousand times greater throughput"

Mapping with a camera from a base in space

By Nick Nuttall

A computer system which could revolutionise the way cameras mounted on satellites, submarines and land-based vehicles map roads, crops and monitor missiles and military movements has been designed by scientists at the University of Warwick.

They have just begun building a prototype machine with a £148,000 grant from the British Space Agency.

Led by the British computer expert Professor Graham Nudd, who has also received British government funding, the researchers believe they could have solved a fundamental problem in computer-controlled imaging - how to extract a specific set of images, say roads, from a whole picture at the same rate that the camera receives them, without the need for cumbersome machines.

Professor Nudd, who returned to Britain in 1985 from the US after 20 years with the Hughes Aircraft Corporation, explained: "A typical camera works out between 30 and 50 frames a second, so in one third of an hour the camera has taken 600,000 frames. It is not possible to store all this information, so you have to extract a specific set of images, say roads, from a whole picture at the same rate that the camera receives them, without the need for cumbersome machines."

One route to achieving this has been to stick lots of machines together, all working in parallel, to create a giant computer, which can do a hundred million operations a second.

However, the Warwick team believes a simpler and more efficient solution can be achieved by breaking down the processing into a hierarchical or pyramid structure where communication is parallel across the pyramid, and also up and down the command chain from the top's more intelligent master processors to the simple slaves at the base.

They put these edges together, relaying images to the visual display and commanding the rest of the system to extend data collection to see how far the target image goes.

Professor Nudd believes the key to the model's speed is the two-way interaction of all the different or heterogeneous processors, where superfluous light intensities are filtered out up front.

However, he also believes the way Warwick is mixing and matching its processors in a hierarchy of intelligence is also playing a crucial role in the design's success.

"You end up with less information but it is much richer information on the subject you wish to view," he explained.

Professor Nudd emphasizes that their design is just one of many angles which scientists around the world are pursuing. However, if the prototype lives up to the theory the implications are profound, which is clearly why the US Navy has taken such an interest.

Not only does this mean the recording of vital information such as a submarine's movements in port, but that it is not lost as orbiting satellites whiz round the earth battling to produce meaningful images from a wealth of incoming data.

The system will allow users to react more rapidly to a situation as pictures on a specific subject are received almost instantaneously, instead of the 20 to 60-minute delay currently experienced with contemporary machines of a comparable size.

Above the second battalion are even

more sophisticated processors which know edges of a certain width and light intensity mean a road.

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Above the second battalion are even

You are very bright. I am very dark. There must be an edge.

array of more sophisticated processors called transputers, which are typically arranged in eight groups of eight.

The transputers, which can handle much larger pieces of data, are in communication with each other and individually responsible for a batch of slaves.

From the information they are receiving from the front-line troops, the transputers may say to each other: "You are very bright. I am very dark. There must be an edge."

Above the second battalion are even

The personal touch

By Kevan Pearson

IBM is soon expected to launch a new model in its Personal System/2 range of personal computers which were announced just over a year ago.

The new model 70, will use the powerful 32-bit Intel 386 chip like its larger relative, the model 80, but will be a desktop system rather than a floor-mounted tower system. There will be two versions of the processors with different speeds - the more powerful machine giving about 20 per cent more performance than its smaller cousin. The larger version will also have a higher basic memory - two megabytes rather than one.

It will offer similar performance to the model 60 but substantially lower expansion capabilities featuring only three expansion slots, compared with seven for the model 80.

It can only have a 120 megabyte hard disc - equivalent to about 32,000 pages of A4 paper. But even that is larger than most hard discs in use today. The model 80 can handle twice that amount of data along with internal tape drives and optical disc drives.

In February IBM cut the cost of some PS/2 systems by between 14 and 17 per cent. The new model is likely to be priced under £4,000 and will fill a gap in IBM's range.

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Minis move into a micro market

From Geoff Wheelwright in New York

Distinctions between the micro and mini computers continued to blur last week as mini manufacturers moved into systems that compete directly with so-called supermicrocomputers that cost under £10,000.

The first came from Hewlett-Packard (HP), announcing new mini-computers with one costing less than £8,000 putting it firmly in competition with PCs.

It was a move that HP had to make as it and many other mini-computer manufacturers have recently started to feel squeezed by the growing power of personal computers.

An alternative approach was taken last week by Sun Microsystems, a maker of specialist graphics workstations which last week launched a new range of PCs based on the powerful 386 chip to counter the growing number of rivals, such as Compaq, moving up from the PC market.

Recently Sun has started to push a system that uses Reduced Instruction Set Computing (RISC). Hewlett Packard seem to be in agreement with this approach as its new mini-computers depend totally on the use of RISC technology for their success.

RISC is seen as a way for manufacturers to increase power and facilities on mini-computers without the huge base of software and data that

their customers will already have on existing systems.

Much of HP's response is aimed at Digital Equipment (DEC) which has pushed the virtues of a unified mini-computer product line for the past year. Last week DEC also announced new mini-computers which touted this approach, dismissing others using the Unix operating system as "snake oil" that did not deliver what was promised.

DEC's new Vaxstation 2000 machine, in particular, is supposed to add the company's line of low-cost mini-computers in the same way as Sun and HP's latest machines.

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4. Multimate Adv. II (£495) £310 11. Microsoft Word 4 (£425) £269
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PERSPECTIVE

The myths of standards

By Robert Sanders

Ten years of wrestling with the ever-changing attempts at establishing software standards and of sitting on standardization committees, have convinced me that for the foreseeable future the idea of a graphics standard, in particular, and possibly even a software standard in general, is a myth.

It's not that standards in themselves are a bad thing. It would be a no-brainer, for example, to introduce domestic electric cables sheathed in purple, white and beige. Colour coding is sensible because it makes wiring a plug simple and safe.

However, there is a great difference between this and standards as they apply to the software side of high technology. Coloured wires are static standard - once developed they do not need changing, because the technology behind them stays the same. Software standards cannot be developed on the same assumption.

One of the most common myths is, in fact, based on the assumption that standards are at the forefront of technology. The reality is that because standards take many years to approve they are always trying to catch-up.

Another myth is that writing computer programs using standards will provide the best insurance that an application runs on all sorts of different computers.

This is indeed true - but only if you write to the lowest level of the standard. Graphics standards, for example, are defined at several levels. Suppliers choose the level to which they wish to support the standard.

So if you write an application based on, say, level 2b of a standard, it won't run on another firm's level 1b implementation.

Anything other than a pure standard is not particularly bad, but potential users must realize that programming

extensions beyond the standard severely hampers program portability.

Hardware developments are often brought into this argument. For example, another myth states that the performance of standard-based applications will improve as the standards are put on to the microchips themselves - firmware, as it is called.

Hardware and workstation sellers prosper by offering more functions and performance at lower price than their competitors. Legislating a graphics standard based on three-year-old technology is contrary to their efforts.

Perhaps the most prevalent myth is that a single standard will provide a safe decision for all applications.

The fact is that standards today are a safe decision for



Robert Sanders: Standards are always trying to catch up many applications. However, no single standard represents a solution to all applications. Even if a single standard may fit requirements today, chances are high that over a period of time it will become apparent that the single standard will not be the answer for all applications. Customers can do more to ensure their success by selecting suppliers that will meet future requirements than concentrating on standards alone. Robert Sanders is managing director of Precision Visuals International, a company specialising in computer graphics software.

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GE claims hot new ceramic breakthrough

Robert Matthews

Scientists at General Electric in the US have made a great breakthrough in the development of microelectronic devices able to exploit the properties of high-temperature superconducting materials.

Since the discovery in 1986 of ceramic compounds that lose all their electrical resistance when chilled with liquid nitrogen, scientists have sought ways to incorporate this relatively simple way of achieving superconductivity into existing technology.

For example, using superconducting interconnects made of the yttrium-based ceramics between microchip elements opens up the possibility of cramming far more computing power into smaller volumes.

This is because, having no electrical resistance, the interconnects would generate no heat when current flows through them, allowing components to be packed more densely.

Greater computing speeds would result, simply because the electrons in the circuits have less far to travel.

Until now, however, efforts to incorporate the new materials into electronics have been stymied by the fact that laying

down strips of the ceramic materials on the silicon conventionally used in most electronic devices leads to "inter-diffusion", and the disappearance of the superconductivity phenomenon.

Dr Antonio Mogro-Campero and his colleagues at the GE research team claim to have overcome this key difficulty.

He explained: "What happens is that the components of the superconductor mix with those of the silicon or silicon-dioxide substrate, causing a re-arrangement of elements. This destroys the superconductivity; you no longer have yttrium, barium and copper at the approximate 1:2:3 ratio required."

GE has found that the inter-diffusion problem can be overcome by putting a layer of the compound zirconia between the superconducting layer and the silicon or silicon dioxide.

The zirconia is deposited on to the silicon, using electron-beam evaporation, in which the heat generated by high-energy electrons is used to boil off zirconia from a source, with the vapours then condensing on to the silicon.

The researchers were able to lay down a 0.4 micron-thick layer of zirconia on their test



Eye to eye on a great microelectronic development

specimens of .24in. by .75in. rectangles of silicon cut from a wafer.

The copper, barium and yttrium layers needed for superconducting ceramics were then laid down sequentially, and the whole "sandwich" annealed at about 850 degrees Celsius to convert the elements into a ceramic superconductor.

In subsequent experiments, the team has managed to get the "sandwich" to supercon-

Chief scientists lead on pay

SALARIES

By Matthew May

Chief scientists are doing best in the science and technology pay stakes, according to a management salary survey from the Reward group. They feature as the third highest paid in a survey of 25 industry groups, ranging from advertising to sales.

Chief scientists now have an average salary of £22,295, about 10 per cent higher than the national average for their rank.

Peter Brown of Reward lists privatization down as one reason behind the boost. He adds: "The percentage of senior scientific and technical people in the private sector is increasing."

Research and development managers are not faring quite so well, with an average salary of £20,000, having seen an annual increase around seven per cent compared to 10 per cent for chief scientists. But

Mr Brown puts some of this down to the way big companies, which usually pay better, often using the title "chief scientist" to denote a job that in smaller companies is called R & D manager.

As previous surveys have indicated, computer managers are still losing ground. The survey says "The assumption that accountants and computer managers are the highest-paid is not supported. Indeed, computer managers reach only sixth place in the highest-paid table."

As managers have had to become increasingly computer-literate, so to it has demystified the data processing department. Mr Brown comments: "Computer managers are no longer seen as the magician at the centre of the company."

Average salary is now £21,000, with a yearly increase of 7.7 per cent, little more than the average for all industries. Systems analysts had rises of only 3½ per cent, although analyst/programmers continued to forge ahead with an average rise of more than 10 per cent.

The average salary for a new graduate is £8,500 and the pay for those who stay "shoots up much faster than other employees", the report says. Many companies are reviewing salaries for new graduates at six-month intervals.

For those with science and technology degrees, there is still a boom in recruitment, although, says Mr Brown, this possibly excepts chemistry graduates where, because so many have studied chemistry at school and continue at university, there tends to be an over-supply.

A recent report from the National Computing Centre on the skills shortage in information technology estimated the shortfall in experienced staff at 19,400 people, with a further need for at least 50,000 more people over the next five years.

But getting a degree in computer science may not be the answer. Some graduates with such degrees are considered unsuitable for employment in information technology. Only 14 per cent of trainees recruited as systems staff over the last two years had computing science degrees, according to the NCC survey.

HOW THE PICTURE CHANGES

	Lowest quarter	Median	Highest quarter	Annual change %
Chief scientist	19,153	22,295	28,025	9.8
R & D manager	17,050	20,000	23,650	7.1
Computer manager	17,500	21,000	25,393	7.7
Data processing manager	15,929	18,295	21,000	7.6
Information services manager	14,843	17,084	19,415	4.3

Source: Reward Salary and Living Cost Report

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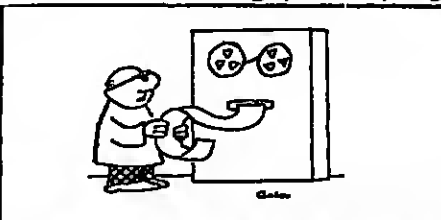
This is the third of our four weekly competitions to find the lighter side of new technology. We are asking you to provide different captions to the two cartoons illustrated above - preferably relevant to computing or high technology.

You may think of a new caption for either one or both of the cartoons and submit as many entries as you please enclosing the logo, top right, in each case.

This week The Times/CMG competition would like to tax you with two levels of technology from different eras, one of them probably the world's oldest, if specialized calculating device. Unless you have a caption proving differently? It is just a suggestion and you do not have to take any notice. Judging by the entries so far, you probably won't.

Though the mock accent that comedians use for Freud is impossible to reproduce in print we wish it were. He would certainly have had something to say about the continuing British passion for lavatorial humour, demonstrated in our entries so far. Captions for the cartoon shown below on the left covered toilet rolls, paper dispensers and associated television advertisements. There were also plenty of rude jokes about the awful clothes of one of the characters shown in the cartoon on the right.

The caption for the winner of our first week's competition is shown below with the cartoon on the left. He is Stanley Alderson of Cambridge and wins a week for two on an island somewhere. He might, however, not get



This is exactly my favourite way of unwinding - reams of blank computer printouts, my equivalent, Doc, of your long white capy tropical beaches.



This is the prototype under my finger - the production model will be miniaturized of course.

Air traffic at risk as radio navigation takes the strain

By Pearce Wright

A warning was given last month that air traffic would face "intolerable delays" in the next decade unless Europe's existing radio navigation networks were replaced by a more accurate and standard system.

The problem, examined at a special meeting called by the Royal Institute of Navigation, in London, is not restricted to the safety and efficiency of airline operations and military aircraft.

It is of equally vital importance to military and civil shipping, including leisure boats. Further, it could be crucial to replace the old systems if the application of radio navigation technology to the untapped market of land vehicles is to succeed.

The dilemma stems from the piecemeal development of radio navigation in the post-

war years. Replacement of those ageing and incompatible networks would probably cost the European governments £50 to £100 million in capital costs and up to £10 million a year in running costs.

All radio navigation systems need a network of transmitters. Their radio beams mark out the lanes along which to guide the world's airline pilots. The signals also provide seaborne navigators with the information to make an accurate fix of their positions.

But a different receiver is needed for each transmission system. And by an accident of history, Europe has inherited a mixture of systems, some usable irrespective of the type of vehicle, others confined to aircraft or ships, some military; but none designed to meet a standard set of criteria.

As a general rule, governments pay for these networks

and the users by those receivers. But the ranks of those users has suddenly swelled from a few thousand to hundreds of thousands. With the advent of the low-cost microprocessor, electronic position-fixing has in the last five years become a practical proposition for the myriad of small craft and opened the possibilities for cars and lorries.

Unlike the haphazard situation in Europe, the United States has an agreed federal radionavigation plan, with a timetable for phasing out obsolescent systems and replacing them with new technologies for position-fixing.

As it happens, three of the main systems covering Europe are maintained by the US government at no cost to the user.

Though the experts agree it is time for a unified European system, they are divided over the choice of new ground-based or satellite technologies.

The key part of the American plan is the US Global Positioning System, GPS, a worldwide, satellite-based navigation system. Developed for the military, it is on offer for civilian users.

One specialist in satellite technology who questions the desirability of adopting a military-controlled radio navigation aid for civilian purposes is Wally Blanchard, a former RAF navigator and director of a firm called Navigation Management. He proposes an intriguing cheap satellite scheme in which ground-based chains of transmitters are replaced by leasing channels of commercial communications satellites to transmit navigation and positioning signals.

Commercial cloning nearer

A new and powerful biological technology that enables livestock breeders to clone large numbers of identical animals from a single embryo is nearing commercial application in the US and Canada.

The cloning technique is the latest in a series of breeding technologies that have allowed animal scientists steadily to separate reproduction in livestock from natural mating and thereby gain much tighter control over the hereditary traits of cattle, pigs and sheep.

What breeders lacked, though, was a reliable technique for precisely duplicating superior animals. With the cloning technology, scientists are closing in on what has long been the ultimate objective in modern husbandry: achieving the same levels of uniform quality and production in farm animals that were once thought to be confined only to manufactured goods.

Moreover, the ability to successfully clone large mammals hints at the possibility in years to come that similar techniques might be devised for humans. Over the last 30 years, advances in animal reproduction technology have often presaged similar developments in human reproduction a decade later.

The technology marries cell fusion, a common technique used by molecular biologists, with several widely used animal reproductive technologies, the most important of which is the ability to transfer animal embryos from the genetic mother to a surrogate.

But animal cloning is unlikely to be widely available until the costs of the procedure decline, and the reliability increases.

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- *VAX/VMS

For all these and more technical and scientific opportunities send your CV to Carole Fowler at the address below. Alternatively you can telephone her on (048 641 3000) for an application form.

Technology Recruitment, Albury House, Albury, Guildford, Surrey, GU5 9BP.

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TECHNOLOGY

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Managers - now log on for your next recruit



Richard Marsh: co-founder of a computerized recruitment service

Two former bosses of a recruitment agency have set up a computerized recruitment service...

Richard Marsh and Bob Birch, the two directors of the service, called the Shortlist...

It costs nothing for the job-seekers to go into the system - it is just the potential employers who pay an annual subscription...

unlimited access to one list of candidates. The lists will range from medical and pharmaceutical...

The claim is that companies could save considerably, particularly if they recruit several people per year...

Most of the subscriptions Mr Marsh and Mr Birch have already pre-sold have been of the lists for people in high technology...

Mr Birch said: "In high-tech areas, people have a fear that their CVs are being sent around willy-

JOBSCENE

By Caroline Berman

recruited by recruitment agencies, and they could end up in the wrong place, and this could get embarrassing...

"The potential employer asks for the full cv and we don't release these details unless the candidate agrees. The candidates have 100 per cent control over who sees their CV."

Another reason they hope that the system will work well in the high tech field is that there may be people with certain skills in some parts of the country, but there may be a shortage elsewhere.

They hope to have at least 50,000

candidates on the system for the full launch at the end of April.

To register candidates will be asked to ring a Teledata number (01-200 4444) when an application form will be sent...

The idea of a national database of job seekers has been around for some years.

In 1982 another viewdate-based recruitment system was launched, although somewhat less scrupulously than this one. Called Jobtel...

Mr Birch and Mr Morish are sufficiently confident about the Shortlist service to already have plans to launch a similar service in the US at the end of the year...

The candidates' telephone num-

bers were put up on screen, so there was absolutely no anonymity. Although Jobtel was free to the potential employers, there were just 17,000 Prestel sets installed...

At the same time that this was going on, Professional Executive Recruitment, part of the Manpower Services Commission, was listing job seeker profiles on Prestel, alongside its lists of job vacancies...

Mr Birch and Mr Morish are sufficiently confident about the Shortlist service to already have plans to launch a similar service in the US at the end of the year...



Bob Birch: With our system, a brief resume of a job candidate goes on screen

Research balances Apple between a snail and a bee

By Richard Pawson

An Apple Macintosh is equivalent in processing power to something between a snail and a bee. No - this is not some marketing manager's rhetoric...

Like many of his fellow researchers into robotics and artificial intelligence, Mr Moravec was intrigued with the question of how computers will overtake humans in intelligence.

His starting point was to analyse the progression in computing power using a complex formula that took account of processing rates, on-board memory and cost...

A curve of consistency

second per dollar - against the year of introduction for each machine, the result is a remarkably consistent exponential curve from Babbage's Analytical Engine through to the contemporary supercomputers.

This is despite five fundamental changes in the enabling technology: mechanical adding machines, the therm-

ionic valve, transistor, integrated circuit and micro-processor. Crudely speaking, the processing power available for a fixed cost is multiplying by 1,000 every 20 years.

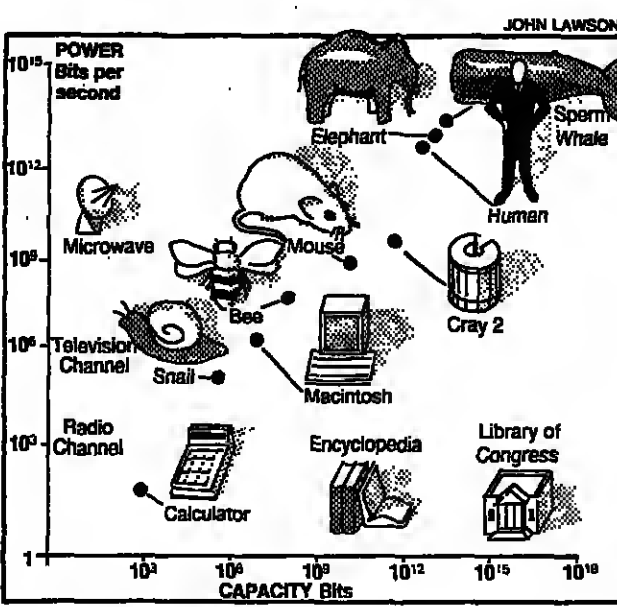
Meanwhile, how are the humans and animals doing? For Mr Moravec all animate beings are made up of neural cells - simple logic devices strung into massive networks...

Scientists cannot exactly define the specification of an individual neural cell - or "neuron" - but in recent years they have gained a pretty good idea.

It seems that each neuron can store approximately 100 bits of information, 12 bytes, and could process that quantity of data in around a second.

Hence the comparison between a Macintosh and a snail. But where do we fit in? Only a thousand times ahead of the biggest contemporary computers, according to Mr Moravec...

Now Mr Moravec is not claiming that a machine with the same processing power as the human brain will necessarily behave as intelligently. Such a realization will require a major shift in emphasis for



artificial intelligence research.

For many years the AI community has held doggedly to the belief that true intelligence lay in abstract reasoning...

The robot with intelligence

Computers are now quite good at these things; you can buy a vast range of expert system packages - even for a humble PC - but they remain utterly incompetent at tasks like visual perception and navigation around obstacles...

Why number theory is no longer counted as useless

By Ian Stewart

It has been used to help map the surface of Venus by radar, from earth, and to improve the acoustics of concert-halls. The United States Department of Defense recently imposed a secrecy order on an attempt to exploit its power...

What is it? The answer is number theory, by venerable tradition the purest, most "useless" branch of mathematics. Can two perfect cubes add up to another perfect cube? Are there infinitely many prime numbers that differ by two?

These are typical problems of number theory: deceptively simple questions about ordinary whole numbers, which would be parlor tricks were it not for the appalling difficulty of answering them.

As the twentieth century draws to a close, mathematics once pursued as art for art's sake is becoming indispensable at the frontiers of technology.

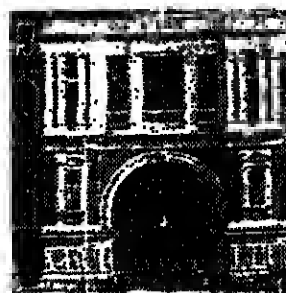
Communications systems are making considerable use of ideas taken from number theory. Messages being sent around the world can fall prey to random noise generated by, say, solar flares.

To shield communication from such perils, engineers code their signals in clever ways based on the basic properties of numbers which enables the interference to be

picked out and the errors it introduces corrected.

Number-theoretic codes developed by space scientists are so powerful that they can perform the apparently impossible feat of taking a thinly scattered sampling of returned pulses and reconstructing a meaningful signal.

Designers of concert halls trying to get the best possible acoustics for the audience



The Royal Albert Hall and

have been able to take advantage of a similar technique.

People absorb sound, so ideally the acoustic response of a concert hall should be measured with an audience present. Hiring an audience to sit on the sounding sessions is expensive, however.

Using number theory, the acoustics can be measured while a concert is under way. The trick is to transmit a very faint signal consisting of about 65,000 pulses repeating every two seconds.

The volume is kept so low that the audience cannot hear the test pulses. But the mathe-

tical regularities in their structure allows the sound engineers to filter out the noise to give just the response of the hall to their test signal, allowing them to gauge the success of their design.

The power of number-theoretic techniques has not been lost on the military. This is where the Department of Defense comes in. It was



Venus: Linked by numbers

recently up in arms over a neat little formula in number theory discovered more than 300 years ago.

In October 1640 Pierre de Fermat, a French lawyer and perhaps the most brilliant amateur mathematician of all time, wrote to a friend to say that he had made an interesting discovery.

This was that any number raised to a power which is a prime number, minus the original number, leaves no remainder when divided by the power.

Fermat's Little Theorem, so-called to distinguish it from his Great Theorem, whose implications still baffles mathe-

maticians - found instant fame as basic mathematics, but no applications whatever.

Until the late-1970s, that is. At that time Ted Rivest, Adi Shamir, and Leonard Adleman, working in the United States, discovered how to use Fermat's Little Theorem as the basis of a "trapdoor cipher", which enables messages to be enciphered easily by anyone, but makes unauthorized deciphering practically impossible.

Since 1917, American law has permitted the government to slap a security classification on the ideas of private citizens, and under the 1951 Secrecy Act, defence agencies can request the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to issue secrecy orders.

Early last year, such an order was placed on the Feige-Fiat-Shamir patent. After a stream of protests, the order was rescinded, the official explanation being "bureaucratic snafu."

In hindsight, the considerable applications now being found for this "useless" branch of mathematics could have been predicted. Thanks to modern electronics, we inhabit an increasingly digital world.

Number theory is digital mathematics, and what could be more appropriate for a digital world?

The author is at the Mathematics Institute, University of Warwick. His recent book, The Problems of Mathematics, is published by Oxford University Press

NEW TECHNOLOGY

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Senior Sales Executive - Middle East £Neg. Our client is one of the world's foremost main-frame business application software houses. Applicants will have a proven track record of software or hi-tech sales preferably to the Middle Eastern Marketplace. Knowledge of Arabic would be a distinct advantage.

A-M MANAGEMENT. A major company dealing in financial applications are seeking the following personnel: PROJECT LEADER £24,000 +. SENIOR SYSTEMS ANALYST £20,000 + mort. SYSTEMS DESIGNER £16,000 + mort.

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PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Major Charitable Foundation (Central London) Seeks Director

He or she will be responsible to the Trustees both for administration and for advising them on the annual dispensation of some £3 million of benefactions, mainly in the fields of education, the arts, and social welfare.

The successful applicant is likely to be a graduate with representational experience at senior levels in the public service, private sector or education. Age is immaterial, but a candidate of 40-45 would receive favourable consideration.

Apply for full job description and other details to Box No.F86

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The person we are seeking is likely to be currently in a senior position with a proven track record of controlling people and projects together with many years experience of programming and analysis. The successful candidate will have demonstrated an ability to plan, monitor and take an active part in projects through all stages from initial investigation to implementation and will lead our two small but enthusiastic development teams into a future full of many new and interesting projects.

The Council operate a McDonnell Douglas Sequoia 9430 running under the PICK operating system. Over 50 local and remote terminals are connected and many PCs are installed, most also networked and linked to the Sequoia. Major upgrades to this equipment are being planned at present.

An ambitious long term plan for the development of many interesting and varied systems has been produced, using both in-house and package solutions. Other exciting projects are being considered such as using Digital Mapping techniques to convert existing data files into a corporate database.

Experience of Data-Basic, the PICK operating system and Local Government would be an advantage though not essential as full training would be available where necessary. Informal telephone enquiries can be made to the Computer Manager, Chris Thomas on (0202) 886201 ext. 253.

For details and application form, contact the Personnel Office, Council Offices, Forzehill, Wimborne, Dorset, Tel: (0202) 886201 ext. 257 and returnable by 29/4/88.

East Dorset District Council

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND LEGAL SERVICES

£31,035 - £33,369

Applications are invited for the above post in view of the retirement of the current Director in September, 1988.

The successful applicant will be responsible to the Chief Executive for the provision of Legal and Committee services and in addition to heading the Administration Division he/she will provide direct assistance to the Chief Executive to enable the Council's corporate policies and projects to be implemented.

The post offers a considerable challenge for a forward thinking, perceptive person with the ability to provide innovation and momentum in the changing sphere of local government. The successful candidate will be directly involved with competitive tendering, school board reform and the administration of the Council's committees in dealing with the management of change.

Applicants should be enrolled Solicitors in Scotland and have extensive public sector administrative experience.

Further details and application forms (to be returned by 29th April, 1988) from Director of Personnel and Management Services, Central Regional Council, Viewforth, Stirling, Tel: Stirling 73111, Ext. 361.



City Engineer's Cleansing D.S.O. Manager

Salary £15105 - £16329

Post No. D301

The Council's Cleansing functions (Refuse Collection, Street Cleaning and Public Conveniences) are being restructured to a Client/Direct Service Organisation basis. We need a manager with enthusiasm, initiative and ability to lead the D.S.O. both through this crucial stage and in competition thereafter.

To take on this important work, you will need substantial experience of managing a workforce in cleansing or a similar service industry. This is a re-advertisement. Previous applicants need not re-apply, they will be automatically considered.

A place will be available at The Workplace Nursery for employees with children 5 months - 5 yrs old. Where relocation is necessary, expenses to a maximum of £250 plus approved removal costs, together with help in finding temporary housing accommodation, are available.

Application form (returnable by 4th May 1988) and further details from Director of Personnel and Management Services, New Walk Centre, Wafford Place, Leicester LE1 6ZG. Tel (0533) 549922 ext 7089.

As part of the City Council's commitment to an Equal Opportunity Policy, applications are welcome from people regardless of marital status, sex, race, sexual orientation or disability. Disabled persons are guaranteed an interview if suitably qualified and/or experienced. Job sharing applications are welcome for all jobs.

LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL

HORIZONS

A guide to career opportunities

Take a deep breath

We see a great deal of nurses and doctors on television, but there are rarely any pictures of the hospital technicians whose work is equally crucial to our well-being. Among those whose work is little known, unless you happen to need their services, are the respiratory physiology technicians. They make measurements that reflect the function and efficiency of the breathing system. These tests assist doctors, both in diagnosis and in the assessment of a patient's progress after medication.

Checks are also carried out, for example, to make sure that the lungs of someone who is about to undergo surgery will withstand the effects of anaesthesia, or to detect whether, if part of the lung is removed, the remaining lung volume will be sufficient to sustain the patient's breathing pattern without difficulty.

Some patients are referred to respiratory function laboratories, after complaining of such symptoms as shortness of breath, wheezing, tightness in the chest, chest pains, and coughing spells. Others may have had no symptoms, but a routine chest x-ray has revealed some abnormality of the lungs.

Tests vary in complexity. The majority of tests involve the patient's breathing into equipment by means of a mouthpiece. Measurements are made from chart recordings and from meters that measure the concentration of physiological gases (such as oxygen and carbon dioxide) and special test gases such as helium and carbon monoxide.

Many of the patients are very ill and many are nervous when they visit the laboratory. Most of the processes require them to make a considerable effort, so technicians must be patient, understanding and reassuring. They must also be firm and encourage patients to push themselves.

When I walked into the respiratory function laboratory at the London Chest Hospital, the room echoed with exhortations: "Right in, right in! Blow, blow! Now in again! Right in and blow out!"

Leonette John, chief technician, explained that the patients here fall mainly into two categories: those with obstructive lung disease, such as asthma, chronic bronchitis and emphysema, and those with restrictive lung disease, such as asbestosis.

In the former, the lung tissues as well as the airways can be affected. The air passages tend to collapse during exhalation, causing air trapping to occur. In restrictive lung disease, the problem is with the lung tissues themselves.

One of the patients referred to the department was seated in the body plethysmograph, a transparent sealed cabinet, in which she was asked to breath

against a closed shutter. By this means, patients with, for example, emphysema, can be assessed for hyperinflated lungs caused by airtrapping from collapsed airways. Or you may have a patient with a disease such as asbestosis, who can be assessed for decrease in total lung capacity - that is the total volume the lung can hold.

In an adjoining room I caught sight of an exercise bicycle. Some patients, I learned, complained of shortness of breath on exertion, but routine respiratory measurements were normal. Such patients are required to work against

laboratory, where investigations and research work are carried out, and the second clinic, where treatment, bronchoscopies and biopsies are performed. Research involves the investigation of industrial asthma, breathing apparatus during sleep, and assessment of new drugs available by oral and inhaled techniques.

Only a few centres, of which Stoke is one, carry out sleep studies. Technicians may be employed to do all sleep studies, or they may take it in turns to spend a night monitoring a patient's sleep, to see if he or she stops breathing for short periods in the laboratory the technicians carry out all the usual respiratory function tests. They also see people who may be claiming compensation for diseases caused by working conditions.

"Everything we do," points out Lesley, "involves direct patient contact, and we are totally responsible for the patients who come to our department." They even learn resuscitation techniques, so that no time is lost in an emergency. The work involves for technicians going on the wards to take capillary blood samples, undertake basic maintenance of equipment and use computers, which carry out certain of the calculations and store patient data.

Respiratory technicians (of whom there is a shortage) are employed in chest hospitals and in specialist departments in general hospitals. Some departments are merged with cardiology. Pay is not very good, and yet the training entails study in maths, physiology, physics, mammalian physiology, medical physics, medical electronics, physiological measurements, general and communication studies, safety and first aid.

The in-service training is supplemented by study at college. Those without academic qualifications can take a year's part-time foundation course. Successful completion of this course or possession of five GCSE/GCEs at grade C or above in English, maths, physics and a third science, enables student technicians to enter a two-year block-release course leading to BTEC National Certificate in Medical Physics and Physiological Measurement. Further study is necessary to obtain a BTEC Higher National Certificate.

Promotion is possible up to the grade of senior chief physiological measurement technician.

Further information is available from Mrs D. Muirhead, the secretary, Association of Respiratory Technicians and Physiologists, Cardiothoracic Measurement Dept, Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, London Road, Derby DE1 2QY

Next in the series: medical physics technicians

FINANCE

MID SURREY HEALTH AUTHORITY

CHIEF MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT

Salary: £11,945 - £14,410

Due to the promotion of the previous post holder, we are looking for an experienced accountant to lead a team providing financial information to management throughout the Authority.

If you can produce high quality reports to tight deadlines, have at least three years management accounting experience, and have obtained or made substantial progress towards a recognised qualification, we would like to hear from you.

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£6,200 - £10,700

This is an excellent opportunity for a young person interested in accountancy, and with ambition to reach senior management level in the NHS.

The post offers assistance with study for a professional qualification, and training in a wide range of Finance disciplines.

Requirements: Ideally you should hold or expect to obtain this summer at least a second class honours degree. Applications from candidates with good A Level passes in relevant subjects will also be considered.

For further details and application form, please contact: The District Personnel Department, West Park Hospital, Epsom, Surrey TK19 8PB. Telephone Epsom (03727) 27811 Ext 360/362.

Informal enquiries may be made to Mike Theale, Senior Assistant Director of Finance, on Epsom 27811 Ext 383. Closing Date - 22 April 1988

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT

£12,804 - £13,812 + £216 Local Allowance

To assist and deputise for the Principal Accountant in the management of an accountancy team responsible for providing financial advice, financial and management accountancy services and the development of financial systems in relation to the Councils General Rate Fund activities.

You must have an AAT qualification and previous local government experience. Experience in using spreadsheets on personal computer facilities would be an advantage.

For an application form, returnable by 18th April 1988, please telephone our 24 hour answering service on Basingsstoke (0255) 479443, quoting job reference LGC/F220 at the start of your call, or write to the Personnel Manager, Basingsstoke and Deane, Borough Council, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingsstoke, Hants RG21 2AJ.

BASINGSTOKE & DEANE

borough council

ALL BOX NO. REPLIES SHOULD BE SENT TO: BOX NO. BOX 40, DEPT., P.O. BOX 484, VIRGINIA STREET, WAPPING, LONDON, E1 9DD.

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He/she, with a staff of 11, will project the Parliament to the British press and media and will provide the public with factual information on all aspects of its activities.

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- proven track record in public relations or journalism;
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- thorough knowledge of English and at least one other Community language;
- minimum age 40 (date of birth before 3 May 1948).

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- basic monthly salary (currently under review) between £ 3,144 and £ 3,713 (depending on experience) subject to Community income tax;
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Those interested should write to the European Parliament's Information Office, 2, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA or to the European Parliament's Recruitment Service, L-2929 LUXEMBOURG (please quote reference PE/41a/A) for further details and application forms.

Closing date for applications: 2 May 1988.

BRITISH SPORTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE DISABLED

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Applications are invited from people who have a disability or who are able bodied, for challenging and interesting posts within the team developing physical recreation and sporting opportunities for people with a disability in Greater London. Applicants will preferably have interests and skills in physical recreation, sport and people with a disability.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Salary scale £7,250 - £10,100 plus 10% unsocial hours allowance, plus £1,465 London weighting, plus a car.

REGIONAL MANAGER

The successful applicant will manage the development team and office in Greater London, and will have proven management and administrative ability.

Salary scale £9,900 - £12,650 plus 10% unsocial hours allowance, plus £1,465 London weighting, plus a car.

Details from BSAD (1987), Hayward House, Barnard Crescent, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 9PP. Tel: 0296-27889

Closing Date: 29 April 1988

INFORMATION OFFICER

Salary Scale: £11,691 - £12,387 (Including London Weighting)

The Royal Academy of Music requires an Information Officer to report to the Assistant Administrator and the Projects Officer.

Applicants should preferably be graduates with a business background and the ability to work on their own initiative on a wide variety of tasks. They should have good typing skills, experience of using computers for word processing/database applications, and a good telephone manner.

The Academy offers a 3 1/2 hours week, 30 working days' holiday and a friendly working environment.

Please apply in writing (together with a C.V.) to: The Assistant Administrator, Royal Academy of Music, Marylebone Road, London NW1 5HT

MUSEUM DIRECTOR

BRITISH GOLF MUSEUM, ST. ANDREWS

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews Preservation Trust which has recently been established by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Fife, is seeking a MUSEUM DIRECTOR to manage a major new golf museum development in St. Andrews.

The new museum is due to be completed early 1990. The Director will initially work with the project architect and project designer to ensure the successful completion of the museum building and its facilities, and thereafter manage the museum and its services on behalf of the Trust.

Candidates should have appropriate professional qualifications, relevant experience in the field of museum development and management at senior level, an interest in golf, and should combine commercial acumen with vision and imagination.

Salary will be negotiable around £17,000 and with other benefits including relocation help. Please apply in confidence with detailed C.V. to the Chairman, Museum Panel, Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Fife, KY16 9JD.

Assistant Research Officer

(Conservative Group) £10,191-£12,075 p.a.

This post will work under the direction of the Leader of the Conservative Group and the Group's Research Officer. Duties will include assisting in policy research studies, preparing briefing notes, interpreting and presenting statistical data, attending meetings as necessary and liaising with other Departments of the Authority. The successful applicant will be energetic and innovative and be able to demonstrate a good academic record. Previous relevant experience would be an advantage. Job share scheme available.

Relocation expenses where appropriate. For an informal discussion contact John Hilton, Research Officer on Nottingham (0602) 823304.

Further details and an application form may be obtained by telephoning Nottingham (0602) 823378. Completed applications to be returned to the Staffing Officer, Clerk of the County Council and Chief Executive at County Hall, Closing date 25 April. Please quote ref. CCE/MS/05/123 and whether full time or job share.

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GOVERNMENT OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

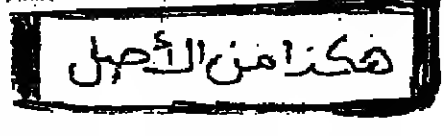
AUDITOR GENERAL

Applications are invited for the post of Auditor General, which will become vacant in October 1988. Applicants should possess a good honours degree in an appropriate discipline and preferably a professional accounting qualification. They should have held a senior audit post with a Commonwealth Government for at least five years and should be fully conversant with Public Accounts Committee procedures.

Appointment will be on contract terms for two years in the first instance. Salary is at the rate of C\$ 43,764 per annum tax free (C\$ = US\$ 1.20) and benefits will include a gratuity at the rate of 15%. The Government will meet the cost of air passages and 50% of rental of furnished accommodation up to a maximum Government contribution of C\$500 per month. Application forms, together with job description and notes on conditions of service are available from:

The Cayman Islands Government Office, 197 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RB. Telephone: 01 581 9418

Applications should be completed and returned by Friday 29 April.



01-481 4481

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c. £21,000

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Within the Legal Services Department, a group of twelve qualified Lawyers provides a service to all parts of the organisation. At present, we seek three Lawyers, preferably aged 23-27, with at least two years' experience, to join this young team.

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One appointment calls for specialisation in IT/Computing Contracts, Intellectual Property, Trade Marks, Copyright, Competition Law and general advice on contractual matters. Previous experience in some of these areas would be an advantage but is not essential. Inter-personal skills and initiative are crucial.

Legal Analysis

Two further appointments will be made in the Legal and Constitutional Office, whose roles is to undertake a legal analysis of projects under development, assessing issues as they arise and advising management on their implications.

As a Legal Analyst, you would work closely with development teams and, in the light of constantly evolving legislative and regulatory provisions affecting the securities industry, would identify necessary changes and promote their acceptance both within the ISE and outside it.

Experience in a securities-related regulatory environment is desirable but not essential. High levels of communication skill and problem-solving ability are expected.

This is a time of constant evolution in this market and these appointments are key to the management of change. Salaries are highly competitive and the benefits package includes non-contributory pension, free travel, BUPA and relocation expenses where appropriate.

Send a full CV, or telephone in confidence. Edward Geraghty, Recruitment Officer, The International Stock Exchange of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland Ltd. Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1HP. Telephone: 01-920 9111, extension 20358.

A market in progress

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c £21K plus benefits based Horsham

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As Deputy Legal Adviser, you'll enjoy the sort of challenge and real responsibility that comes with this senior post. As well as assisting and deputising for the Division's Legal Adviser, you'll be involved at all levels of the decision making process, advising and directing on all relevant legal implications. You'll also provide significant

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You'll need to be a qualified solicitor or barrister with at least 3-4 years' experience advising on legal and taxation matters in the life assurance and pensions field.

Obviously, you'll need a keen interest in finance and the practical application of commercial law and the law relating to trusts and taxation.

In return, we can offer you an outstanding benefits package, including non-contributory pension scheme, subsidised mortgage scheme and relocation assistance where appropriate.

Make a case for your own success. Write with current C.V. or telephone for an application form to: Miss Sue Marshall, Life Personnel Services, Sun Alliance Insurance Group, Sun Alliance House, North Street, Horsham RH12 1BT. Tel: Horsham (0403) 64141 ext: 3519.



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Commercial Conveyancer

London

Young lawyer with suitable conveyancing experience required to join the Legal Department of one of the UK's leading life assurance companies with a vast portfolio of commercial properties spread throughout the United Kingdom.

The position is to be based in London assisting a Senior Solicitor in dealing with all aspects of conveyancing resulting from the Company's property investments. The job will initially involve all areas of commercial property work including sales, purchases, leases and eventually development projects.

The salary c. £15,000 will be payable in addition to all the other benefits associated with a large financial

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If interested please send your CV to the Confidential Reply Manager, Austin Knight Selection, Kings House, Bond Street, Bristol BS1 3AE. Please quote Ref. S/332.

Applications will be forwarded to the client concerned. Therefore any companies you do not wish to receive your CV should be listed separately in a covering letter.

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Commercial Lawyer

City

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As opportunities for lawyers in commerce and industry continue to grow, both in number and diversity, it becomes increasingly important to seek informed, objective career advice when contemplating a career move.

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OUT OF LONDON

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Law Graduate

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Candidates will be law graduates with a knowledge of French for reading and translating documents, and with an interest in employment law, industrial relations and the development of the European Community.

Salary will be circa £9,000 depending on age, experience and qualifications.

Comprehensive CVs, stating present salary, should be sent to Personnel Department, Confederation of British Industry, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DU.

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Director of Education, Training & Information
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LONDON (ALDWYCH AND THE CITY), NEWBURY, THATCHAM
GODALMING, BASINGSTOKE, BOURNEMOUTH, POOLE

Law Report April 12 1988

Court of Appeal

Forgetting does not avoid possession

Regina v McCalla
Before Lord Justice May, Mr Justice Otton and Mr Justice Simon Brown
[Judgment March 30]

Once a person had or possessed something knowingly, such as an offensive weapon, he continued to have possession until he or another person did something to rid him of it. Mere forgetting that he had possession was not enough to prevent state of possession from continuing.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing the appeal of Cleovus Errol McCalla against his conviction on November 11, 1987 at Inner London Crown Court (Sir David Hughes Morgan sitting with a jury) of carrying an offensive weapon. He was sentenced on that conviction to three months imprisonment consecutive to 12 months imprisonment imposed on his conviction of attempted unlawful wounding. On his conviction of reckless driving he was also sentenced to three months imprisonment, concurrent, and was disqualified for three years.

Section 1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 provides: "(1) Any person who without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, the proof whereof shall lie on him, has with him in any public place any offensive weapon shall be guilty of an offence..."

Mr E.K. Coffe, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Andre De Moller for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE MAY said that the appellant was arrested after an incident which gave rise to the offences. It was not disputed that when his car was searched a cosh was found in the glove compartment.

The prosecution alleged that when asked why it was there the appellant said that some of his mates had been attacked and that if he was attacked he would use it, but only to defend himself.

During his evidence he denied saying that and said that he had told the police the truth, that he had picked up the cosh on a building site where he worked and had put it in the car about a month before the incident, and forgot it.

This appeal involved consideration of four earlier decisions which were concerned with the necessary mental element in having or possessing a prohibited thing: R v Cugullere (1961) 1 WLR 858; R v Burwell (1972) 1 WLR 647; R v Russell (1984) 81 Cr App R 315; R v Martindale (1986) 1 WLR 1042.

It was necessary to make one comment first. Where the cases concerned the question of drugs, the consideration was one of possession. In so far as the cases were concerned with offensive weapons, what was relevant was having the offensive weapon in a public place.

Their Lordships thought that to have something with one necessarily required closer contact than mere possession. For the purpose of the instant case and the other four authorities, the relevant considerations as to recollection and forgetfulness were the same.

Their Lordships were driven to the conclusion that Burwell and Martindale could not be reconciled with Russell. As Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, had pointed out in Martindale, Russell was decided without the court being referred to Burwell and their Lordships would hold that the decision in Russell must be considered as having been reached per incuriam.

That did not detract at all from the decision in Cugullere, which could be distinguished on its facts in that there was no knowledge of the possession from the outset so that it was not a question of forgetting possession after obtaining it. Therefore Cugullere could stand properly and easily alongside Burwell and Martindale.

The basic principle underlying those cases was that once someone had or possessed something, be it offensive weapons or drugs he continued to have or possess it until something was done by him or another to rid him of it.

Mere forgetting that one had possession, having once had possession knowingly, was not enough to prevent the state of possession continuing. There was not, in the words of Lord Justice Phillimore in Burwell, some sort of limbo into which the holding of the article went after recollection dimmed.

There had been no misdirection by the judge as to the requirement of knowledge that the appellant had the cosh with him, and there was no need to leave to the jury the question whether the appellant had forgotten he had the cosh with him.

He knew he had it with him when he picked it up from the building site and he continued to have it with him in the car. In so far as the statute was concerned, he had it with him in a public place, where the alleged offence was committed.

Further, their Lordships were satisfied that the fact that someone forgot that he had an offensive weapon in his car when he was driving it was no reasonable excuse upon which he could rely within the statutory provisions of the relevant Act.

On the other hand, when that forgetfulness was coupled with particular circumstances relating to the original acquisition of the article, that combination could be a reasonable excuse for someone having the offensive weapon with him.

For instance, if a person, driving along a road where earlier there had been a demonstration, saw and picked up a policeman's truncheon which had been dropped and put it in his boot intending to take it to the nearest police station, then of course if he was stopped within minutes he had a reasonable excuse for having the truncheon with him.

If he forgot it was in the boot and two years later was stopped and the truncheon found, the circumstances of its original acquisition and the passage of time during which the car owner had forgotten completely that it was there, together could comprise a reasonable excuse for having the offensive weapon.

There had been no misdirection on this question of reasonable excuse. The appeal was dismissed.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Inner London.

Three recent Court of Appeal cases reached different conclusions as to whether the disclaimer was subject to the test of reasonableness under section 2(3) of the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977: Phillips Products Ltd v Hyland (1987) 1 WLR 659; Smith v Eric S. Bush (a Firm) (1987) 3 WLR 889; and Harris v Wyve Forest DC (The Times December 22, 1987; [1987] 1 All ER 691).

His Lordship would favour the approach adopted in Smith applying the test of reasonableness for the particular facts.

Solicitors: Stevens & Co, Chirk; Longueville Gittins & Co, Oswestry.

Mr Justice McNeill so held in the Queen's Bench Division when giving judgment for the plaintiffs, David R. Davies and Joan Davies and holding the defendant valuation surveyor, Robert Idris Parry, liable in damages for not drawing attention in his valuation report to major defects caused by the laying of the house's foundation concrete slabs on compact burnt shale which was contrary to building practice.

Mr William R. Wood for the plaintiffs; Mr Geoffrey Little for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE McNEILL said that there were plain differences of judicial opinion upon the effect of a disclaimer in a mortgage application.

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FOOTBALL: MANCHESTER UNITED MANAGER HAS HIS SIGHTS AND HOPES ON A RETURN TO EUROPEAN COMPETITION

Ferguson vows to hold his players to their contracts

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, insisted yesterday that Norman Whiteside and Paul McGrath will not be allowed to leave the club until suitable replacements have been found.

McGrath, the Irish international, handed in an official transfer request last week, 48 hours after the United board of directors had reluctantly agreed to allow Whiteside, valued at £2 million by Old Trafford, to leave the club.

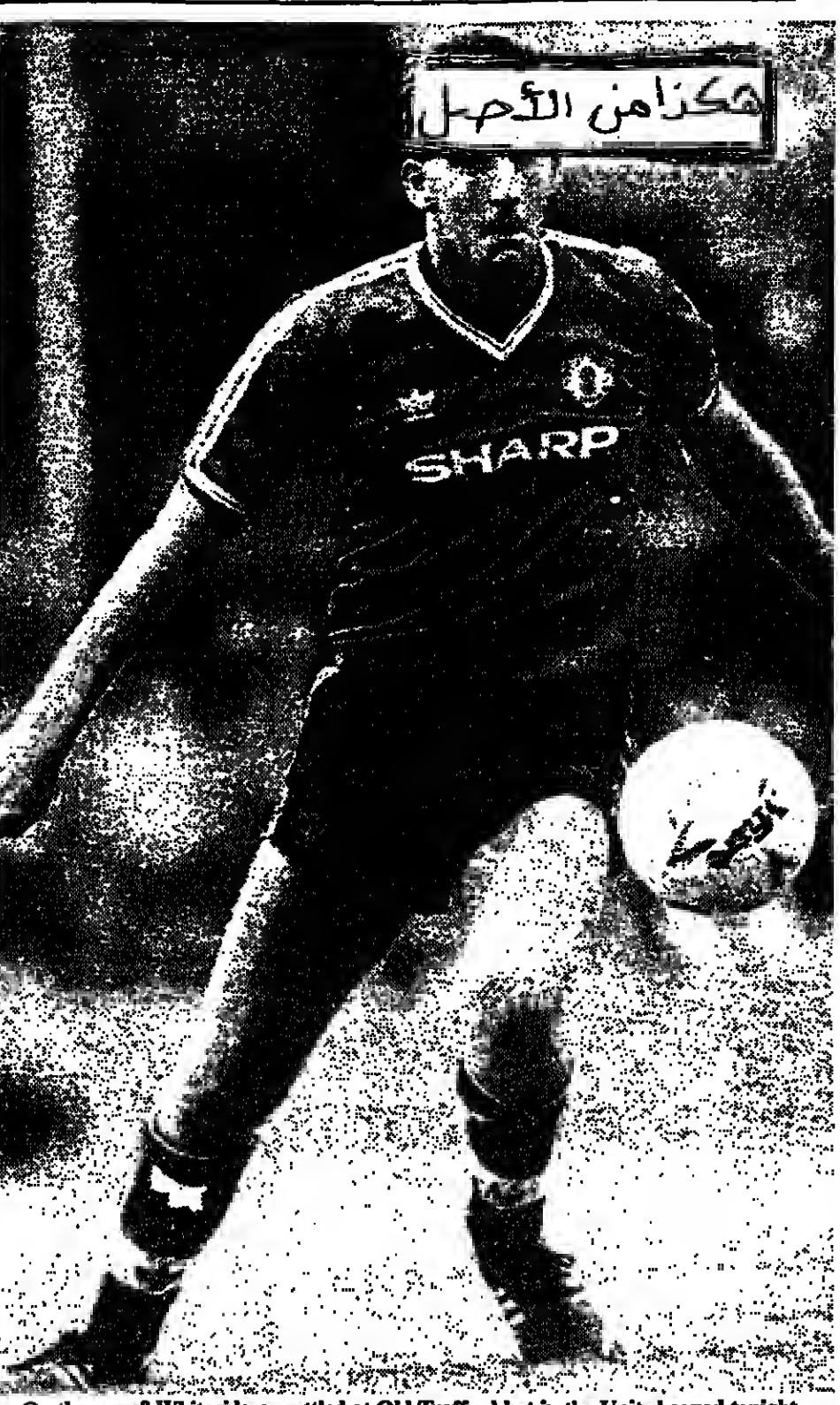
Adams, the England international centre back, returns to the Arsenal squad after missing Saturday's 4-2 defeat at Southampton because of flu. George Graham, Arsenal's manager, has left out Steve Williams, Martin Hayes and Perry Groves, with Niall Quinn and Graham Rix recalled.

Liverpool players top of poll

John Barnes, of Liverpool, has been named player of the year by the Professional Footballers' Association.

Bradford envision sweeping changes

Bradford City are to double the capacity of their Valley Parade ground to generate more cash in a remarkable renaissance which has witnessed several teams bankruptcy, the appalling fire and a struggle against relegation just over a year ago.



On the move? Whiteside, unsettled at Old Trafford but in the United squad tonight

Competitors have their say

More than 250 of Britain's leading competitors are to be invited by Colin Moyntain, the Minister for Sport, to attend a conference on the future of British sport.

The Minister, himself an Olympic silver medal winner in 1980, is particularly eager that the competitors themselves should have a say in the proposed restructuring of British sport and that their views should be considered alongside those of the administrators.

At the moment there is no forum for competitors in all sports to voice their opinions, whereas the governing bodies do have such opportunities as events like the CCC's National Conference and in individual meetings with the Sports Council, which allocates Government money.

PSV reach threshold

PSV Eindhoven virtually clinched their third consecutive Dutch championship at the weekend with a 1-0 win over AZ Alkmaar.

Rich season nears end

Glenora face a hectic finish to a season that has seen rich praise heaped upon them for the type of football they have played (George Ace writes). They stand on the threshold of a league and cup double, the most recently achieved in 1951.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with multiple columns for various sports: AMERICAN FOOTBALL, GOLF, HOCKEY, BASKETBALL, BASEBALL, NATIONAL LEAGUE, AMERICAN LEAGUE, BOARD SAILING, BOXING, SNOKER, and SNOW REPORTS. Each section contains brief news items and statistics.

SNOKER

Professional ranks set to welcome young amateurs

Ian Doyle, the manager of Stephen Hendry, disclosed plans yesterday to open up the game to young players like Hendry by making it easier to become professional.

Doyle, a member of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association board, said: "If Stephen becomes the youngest ever world champion in May '88 at the age of 19, how long will that record stand? In five years' time I can imagine a player 16 made up entirely of amateurs under the age of 25."

CRICKET

Pakistan spinners earn lead of 197

After Keith Arthurton completed a sparkling 124, the Pakistan spin bowlers proved too good for the rest of the West Indies Under-23 XI here yesterday on the last day of the match.

Qadir and Faqih shared the late-order wickets after Arthurton was out before the last man. Dhanraj, stayed with Bishop for 45 minutes up to lunch. The left-hander was overhauled by Arthurton during their fifth wicket stand but played his part with a well-organized defence.

Table titled 'PAKISTAN'S First Innings' showing scores for batsmen like Muddassir Nazir, Ramiz Raja, and Qadir, and bowlers like S Moin Khan and Zahir Khan.

Wait over for umpires

The first-class umpires will be better informed this season of the marks they are given by county captains after each match.

Barrie Meyer, Nigel Plews, David Shepherd and Alan Whitehead represented the umpires and Mike Gatting (Middlesex), Kim Barnett (Derbyshire), and Geoff Cook (Northamptonshire) and Paul Parker (Sussex), the county captains.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Promotion priority in new role

The man charged with the responsibility of making amateur Rugby League a national game by 1995 is an Irishman born in Limerick, a town where Rugby League is not played.

REAL TENNIS

Ronaldson slips to third place

Chris Ronaldson, the former world champion, failed at the quarter-final stage of the two major tournaments that have just been concluded in Australia, to the young professionals, Curtis Bryson and Paul Taylor (Swiss), the county captains.

Table titled 'YACHTING' listing various regattas and events such as 'LYNNINGTON SPRING REGATTA' and 'SOUTH COAST REGATTA'.

TABLE TENNIS

LEEDS: British League Premier Division: 1. Burt, 2. O'Connell, 3. Wetherby.

He was yesterday appointed the first national development officer of the British Amateur Rugby League Association with responsibility for development of new amateur teams and strengthening of existing ones, particularly in areas which are new to the 13-a-side code.

SNOKER

ROTHBAM: Matchroom League: (A) Clitheroe: W. Thomas (eng) drew with G. Griffiths (Wals) 4-4. (B) Clitheroe: W. Thomas (eng) drew with G. Griffiths (Wals) 4-4.

SNOW REPORTS

SCOTLAND: Calington upper and middle runs, snow complete, wide cover, spring snow; lower slopes, snow complete, wet snow.

Advertisement for '7 days to... TODAY'S GOLFER' magazine, featuring a golfer in mid-swing and the text 'First issue out Thursday'.

Cox is angered by Maxwell's move for Cruyff

By Dennis Shaw

Arthur Cox put his future as the £60,000-a-year manager of Derby County in jeopardy yesterday with an extraordinary public attack on Robert Maxwell, his club chairman.

Cox issued a Press statement deploring Maxwell's action in offering a position of technical director to Johann Cruyff without prior consultation. Maxwell disclosed on Saturday that he had made the approach to the famous former Dutch World Cup player who is expected to become the next manager of Barcelona.

Cox, who has led Derby from the third division into the first and is working hard to keep them there, regards the move as undermining his position. "I am deeply hurt that Mr Maxwell has so little respect for me after what I have achieved for him and his son, Ian, over the past four years," Cox said.

"He allowed me to read of the offer to Cruyff in a newspaper without a phone call to me to talk it over. I feel justified in making my views public because, in essence, Mr Maxwell is offering either my job or the job of someone else at the Baseball Ground.

"If he is not pleased with my achievements he should at least tell me to my face. He might remember that I have an agreement that I recommend any appointments on the playing side and it has four years to run."

Cox did not confine his response to observations about his own relationship with the controversial chairman; he also reacted to comments made about the state of the English game and the implications by Mr Maxwell that Bobby Robson's team could not beat Albania.

He said: "These remarks are totally unfounded. We dominated European club competitions when we were involved while Dutch football is at its lowest ebb for years."

Cox, whose hopes of establishing Derby in the first division were undermined by a mid-season transfer ban during Maxwell's protracted row with the Football League over the Watford takeover attempt, also took his chairman to task on this score.

"Mr Maxwell is one of the few men who is in a position to stop the drain of British football talent to the Continent. If he bought only one or

two of Rush, Lineker, Hateley, Hoddle or Hughes for Derby, that would be far more beneficial than a coach who, although a great player, has yet to prove himself in management.

"The chairman said at the start of the season that we would compete with the big clubs. We have fulfilled our fixtures but we have not competed in the manner meant at the time. He has a management team at Derby that will stand comparison with any and given his complete backing they would prove their worth totally.

"So come on Bob. Behave yourself for the good of British football and, above all, for the sake of Derby County. We have four very important matches to play in the near future and this is not the time to be rocking the boat."

Cox, who previously led Newcastle into the first division, has four years remaining on his contract, which was signed last summer when Aston Villa were keen to appoint him.

Maxwell did not react yesterday to an invitation from *The Times* to reply to his manager's comments.



Putting on the green: the coveted Masters jacket is Lyle's following his final-hole victory at the National course on Sunday

Modest Lyle finds himself the scourge of American golfers

From Mitchell Platits Golf Correspondent Augusta, Georgia

American golfers are united in the belief that one of Ronald Reagan's last acts as President should be to confiscate Sandy Lyle's visa.

It would appear to be their only guarantee against Lyle not becoming the first British golfer to lead the US money list at the end of a season following his historic triumph in the 52nd Masters on the Augusta National Course here on Sunday.

The paradox is that no British golfer has been more affectionately received on the American fairways than the affable Lyle. There is not the hint of malice in him but a modesty which has charmed a nation fuelled usually by patriotism.

Thus even the players, as well as the public, cannot find a single bad word to say against him. He is on present form the No. 1 golfer in the world. He has won more than \$1 million (about £555,000) in his last five working months.

In that time his record is outstanding and his three victories in the United States have taken him ahead in the money list with \$591,821 (£329,000), which includes the \$183,800 (£102,000) he earned the hard way by moving past Mark Calcavecchia with his final putt.

Lyle has become a past master at endeavouring to pluck defeat from the jaws of victory, but his strength of character prevailed after he had relinquished what appeared to be a commanding three-shot lead. Calcavecchia, courageously holding out, completed a 70 and as he walked towards the Jones cabin to watch Lyle finish he was asked whether he wanted a play-off. "I don't," he said. It proved to be a death knell as he did not get one.

SIM EARNINGS IN EIGHT MONTHS

Event	Position	Winnings
European Masters	6th	US\$22,720
European Open	49th	US\$1,860
Lancome Trophy	3rd	US\$8,000
Ryder Cup (Europe)	Won	US\$50,000
Dunhill Cup (Scotland)	2nd	US\$23,800
German Masters	1st	US\$23,177
Suntory World Match-Play	2nd	US\$22,280
Kapaula International	3rd	US\$23,000
World Cup (Scotland)	2nd	US\$30,000
World Cup (Individual)	2nd	US\$25,000
Australian Open	2nd	US\$24,400
New Zealand Open	3rd	US\$ 8,650
US Tournament of Champions	15th	US\$ 2,257
Bob Hope	25th	US\$ 7,312
Phoenix Open	1st	US\$117,000
AT&T	12th	US\$13,300
Doral Open	15th	US\$15,500
Honda Classic	16th	US\$2,287
Bay Hill	15th	US\$12,375
Greater Greensboro Open	1st	US\$180,000
Masters	1st	US\$163,800

BIOGRAPHY OF A CHAMPION

Birthplace: Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England.
 Height: 6ft 11in. Weight: 135lb.
 Married: Christine Frow, 1981 (now divorced).
 Children: Stuart (1973); James (1975).
 Special Interests: Motorcycles, cars, aeroplanes.
 Aged 3: Hit first golf ball 80 yards.
 Aged 5: Scored 124 in first official medal.
 Aged 10: Broke 80.
 Aged 11: In grandstand at 18th when Tony Jacklin won Open.
 Aged 12: Father, Alex, golf professional, bought Hawesley Park Golf and Country Club in a syndicate.
 Aged 14: Boy International.
 Aged 16: Won Carris Trophy, Braeburn Trophy.
 Aged 18: Member of Walker Cup team, won Braeburn Trophy again, turned professional and won qualifying Tour school event.
 Aged 20: Won Nigerian Open, European Rookie of the Year.
 Aged 21: Led European order of merit. Won three times, including European Open, Made Ryder Cup debut.
 Aged 22: Led order of merit again.
 Aged 23: Won twice in Europe including French Open.
 Aged 24: Won Lawrence Batley International.
 Aged 25: Won Madrid Open, Casio World Open (Japan).
 Aged 27: Won Open Championship and led order of merit again.
 Member of winning Ryder Cup team.
 Aged 28: Won Greater Greensboro Open (US).
 Aged 29: Won Players' Championship (US) and member of winning Ryder Cup team.
 Aged 30: Won Phoenix Open, Greater Greensboro Open and Masters.

cleanly off the sand and I knew I couldn't get a flyer. Then on the green I looked at the setting sun, because the grain always goes that way, and I knew it was basically a pace putt. I gave it a good roll.

"It was a very satisfying way to win. When I won the Open in 1985 I didn't get into contention until the last four holes. I didn't carry the same weight of pressure as I did here. Now I've proved that I can lead a major for three days, and pull through even if there was a minor hiccup or two."

The grooming of Lyle began from the moment his father, Alex, the professional at the Hawkesley Park Club in Shropshire, watched his son hit his first shot, aged three and wearing wellington boots, some 80yds.

He developed into an excellent amateur golfer before making a successful transition to the professional ranks.

"Many times I felt like quitting," he said. "It's like going to another school: the format is the same but the atmosphere, and the food for instance, is different. But if you want to become a Jack Nicklaus or a Tom Watson, then you must play worldwide. Ten Spanish Opens will not make you a global star. I've surprised myself a few times but then I do believe you make your own luck."

It was on the greens that Lyle excelled himself. He did not have a three-putt until the final day. "I watched Nicklaus putting at Doral," he revealed. "I lowered my right elbow a little and I got a better extension with the putter. I holed out extremely well."

He did that and Lyle, now, is the only man who can win the "Grand Slam": "That's the four majors, isn't it?" he said innocently. "I'll think about it!" It was the kind of reaction that has won the hearts of the American nation.

Arrests on the increase at first division games

By John Goodbody

The number of arrests at first and second division football matches this season is rising, so continuing a trend since the Heysel stadium disaster three years ago.

Figures, given to *The Times*, up to the end of January show a 74 per cent jump in arrests at first division games and two per cent at second division matches compared to the same period last season.

This season, 1,521 people have been arrested at first division games, compared with 874 last season, and 1,301 at second division matches compared with 1,275 in 1986-87. The total of 2,822 until the end of January compares with 3,716 for the whole of 1986-87.

David Phillips, the secretary of the Association of Chief Police Officers' sub-committee on hooliganism in sport, said yesterday that he expected there would be "some increase" when all the arrest figures are collated at the end of this season.

But he warned that there is a danger in drawing too many conclusions from intermediate figures during a season. "The number of games is not necessarily the same at an identical date in the two years, and 'combustible' matches may have been played early one



season and late the next. "We may find that the bulk of the arrests has come from a small percentage of games. We shall see when we have all the figures in the summer."

Phillips also pointed out that although the number of arrests has increased over the last three seasons, it does not necessarily mean that violence has been getting worse. Police have become increasingly expert at countering hooliganism, particularly through more sophisticated intelligence operations and the use of closed-circuit television and spotters at grounds.

However, he added: "There is no doubt that Heysel sta-

dium had a deflating impact on hooliganism in the season immediately after the tragedy. There was clearly a downturn in violence with spectators saying: 'We have had enough of this'.

"My impression now is that there is an element of latent aggression at some games, which is very unpleasant, and if there were not careful policing there would be trouble. There are fewer people who are generally disposed to violence than there used to be, but there remain some groups. These people are still to be sorted out."

Phillips, who is Assistant Chief Constable with Greater Manchester Police, said he did not think that the rise in the number of arrests would have any influence on UEFA, when it makes its decision whether to readmit English clubs to next season's European competitions.

"Speaking personally, I think UEFA is far more concerned with the behaviour of English supporters on the international stage than they are with the domestic situation," he said.

The continental governing body is to make its decision after the European championship finals in West Germany in June.

Dennis is detained in hospital

By Dennis Signy

Mark Dennis, the Queen's Park Rangers defender who recently completed an eight-match ban following the eleventh dismissal of his career, was yesterday detained in hospital in Croydon with injuries following an early-morning dispute over hailing a taxi.

Dennis had been at the Professional Footballers' Association awards dinner at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, on Sunday night and afterwards left with friends to visit a club in Islington.

According to Rangers, Dennis was in hospital having stitches in a head wound; it was understood that he and two friends had been involved in an argument with another group.

Dennis, who was suspended by the Football Association on a charge of bringing the game into disrepute following his dismissal at Tottenham in November, has made one brief appearance as a substitute since the end of his long ban.

England face captain crisis

The England under-21 team, who play France in the European under-21 championship semi-final tomorrow at Besancon, is so badly hit by withdrawals that Dave Sexton, the manager, was unable even to name his captain when the depleted squad flew out yesterday (Clive White writes).

TEAMS: P. Suckling (Crystal Palace), S. Perrett (Sheff Wed), M. Noon (Aston Villa), A. Thorn (Wolves), C. Cooper (Middlesbrough), G. White (Manchester City), J. Fother (Worcestershire Forest), A. Gray (Crystal Palace), J. Suckling (Coventry City), P. Sellers (Sheff Wed), P. Stewart (Manchester City).

Ban on SA tour players unlikely

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

The Rugby Football Union, in the words of Dudley Wood, its secretary, "will not facilitate" the proposed international tour to South Africa this summer by passing on invitations to players. But it was announced yesterday the RFU full committee will discuss the whole issue on April 29 - though it is unlikely they will follow the Welsh Rugby Union line and ban any player from taking part.

"The RFU's attitude to South Africa has been quite consistent. We do not feel the climate is right for teams to go there, and are not in favour of representative matches being played. But we do not particularly like interfering with the individual's freedom of choice," Wood said.

The RFU, like the other home countries, have received a request for the South African Rugby Board to invite up to five players. "I do not believe we will facilitate this tour to take place by providing players," Wood said. "As far as this year is concerned we will do our utmost to dissuade players from going. We are absolutely in line with Government policy here."

Wood admitted that the union was aware of the adverse effect support for the tour might have on the game. He also expressed the opinion that no financial inducements would be forthcoming from South Africa "in the light of what happened last year, and while South Africa want to remain members of the International Board."

Last year the RFU was unhappy that South Africa brought the South Seas Barbarians to their shores, in the wake of the New Zealand Cavaliers in 1986, both tours in which illegal payments were said to be involved.

One England player, Peter Winterbottom, is already in South Africa. The Headingly flanker flew out at the weekend, having withdrawn from consideration for England's summer tour to Australia because he wants to play a full South African season.

The RFU believe that he

qualifies for dispensation from the recent International Board ruling which prevents players who are moving from one hemisphere to another appearing for their visited team before 12 weeks have elapsed.

There has been much confusion on this issue, notably over whether the 12-week ban applies on homecoming. First the board said it did, but the RFU confirmed yesterday that it does not; thus Winterbottom will escape the

ban at both ends, having made all his arrangements before the board made their directive. "We are trying to sort out a common-sense solution to problems of players who have made all their arrangements," Wood said.

Sam Ramsamy, chairman of the South African Non Racial Olympic Committee (SANROC), said yesterday "They proclaim plaudites to appease international opposition, yet on the quiet they are having contacts with South Africa."

SPORT IN BRIEF

Coach on the way

Joe Whelton, the coach of Great Britain's Olympic basketball squad, is leaving Manchester United after a five-year spell in charge. He is considering a number of offers and is almost certain to accept the one from the Swiss club, Fribourg.

Coming back

Sussex are hoping to sign the Australian all-rounder, Tony Dodemaide for 1989. He joined Sussex in 1985 and returned home after gaining his second XI cap.

Grand prix

Moscow (Reuters) - The Soviet Union is considering holding its first international tennis grand prix tournament next year, the Soviet government minister daily, *Izvestia*, said yesterday.

Good start

England started their defence of the four nations' under-18 schoolboys' hockey championship at Linwood, yesterday by beating Scotland 4-0.

Centre stage

The two-day final stage of the £5,000 Bristol & West champion of champions indoor bowling event starts today at the Thornbury Leisure Centre near Bristol.

Rugby sell-out

All 55,000 tickets for the Middlesex seven-a-side finals, at Twickenham on May 7, have been sold.

Home winner

Eddie Lawson won the first United States motorcycling grand prix in more than two decades at Monterey, California, on Sunday.

Coach on the way

Joe Whelton, the coach of Great Britain's Olympic basketball squad, is leaving Manchester United after a five-year spell in charge. He is considering a number of offers and is almost certain to accept the one from the Swiss club, Fribourg.

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END COLUMN

Kicking a giant when he is down

By Peter Ball

This is an age of anti-heroes in sport, as in life. Rules, tradition and sportsmanship too often are spat on or laughed at by the modern sporting superstar with his retinue of agents, sponsors and hangers-on.

But what did respect for tradition and sportsmanship bring John Charles, whose move to Italy for a then astronomical £65,000 transfer fee in 1958 proved a big factor in the abolition of the maximum wage?

A testimonial shared with Bobby Collins at Elland Road tonight, a narrow escape from being sent to prison and the payment of index and his current state as an unemployed man of 56 living in a small semi-detached in a little village between Leeds and Halifax.

In its prime Charles's fame gave him the aura of a Greek god; but he was more than just a big man who was good in the air on the football pitch. He also possessed a delicate and dextrous touch.

And he was a genuine hero. While Ian Botham, that other physical and sporting colossus, seems intent on dignifying the old belief about the gentleness of giants, Charles was its embodiment. That gentleness was fiercely tested by brutal treatment, not only in Italy, but from unexpected quarters like Real Madrid and the remnants of the great 1950s Hungarian side during the 1958 World Cup.

"People say that Real Madrid kicked me," Charles remarked, looking back to the 1962 European Cup quarter-final, which went to a play-off. "They kicked us in Madrid and they kicked us in the third



Charles: gentleness itself match in Paris. They had wonderful players at the front but they were a very hard team at the back."

The treatment he endured so stoically persuaded some that he did not use his own power enough. "I feel he likes to play football without contact, which is patently impossible," carped Stan Collis, manager of Wolverhampton, who had Eddie Clamp, the 1950s precursor of Peter Stoney and Vinny Jones, as his midfield enforcer.

Charles played the game his way without regrets. "I did get kicked a lot but my height and weight carried me through. And I was aggressive. If I went for a ball, it was mine, but as for kicking or belting people, I didn't like that."

That holy innocence carried him through his football. It probably suited him for business, leaving him as another great star with little bad memories, but it undoubtedly helped him transfer successfully to Italy.

Yet in his day a move to Italy was stepping into a different culture. Italian football and footballers were almost unknown rather than regular visitors to our television screens. Footballers spent their holidays in Blackpool rather than the Algarve. By comparison with Charles's trip to Turin, the moves to Barcelona, Turin and Munich by Lineker, Rush and Hughes are no more than a journey from Wrexham to Liverpool.

He adapted better than anyone, proving possibly the most successful import in Italian football of all time. "I loved Italy, loved the country, loved the people. I got on very well with the people in Turin and I didn't take long to learn the language - it is very important that you do that very quickly."

There may be a lesson for Rush and Hughes there, but as well as being a tribute to the man, Charles's success also reflects his outstanding ability as a player. Thirty goals helped Leeds to promotion in 1955-56; the following season he claimed 38 goals in 46 matches for an ordinary side in his only season in the first division.

After that he went to Juventus and glory, his subsequent travels to Leeds, Roma, Cardiff, Merthyr and Hereford only reviving memories of the great days. But for those memories alone it would be nice if Elland Road were filled to the rafters tonight.

The Mortgage Corporation
National League

CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL
 Sunday 17th April at 2.00 p.m.
 Croydon Direct Liners vs Bournemouth Yamaha Aces

The match will be played at The Surrey Tennis and Country Club, 1 Dunsell Way off Steford Road, Croydon.
 Phone: 01-686 5040 for tickets.

Croydon Direct Liners
 Darren Cahill (Australia)
 Buster Mottram (Surrey)
 Robin Drysdale (Essex)
 Brian Cole (Surrey)

Team Manager: Headley Baxter

Bournemouth Yamaha Aces
 Peter McNamara (Australia)
 James Turner (Avoon)
 Laurence Matthews (Hants & IOW)
 Chris Wilkinson (Hants & IOW)
 Bob Booth (Dorset)

Team Manager: Hen Weatherley

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